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PAUGH

HIGGEST LITTLE TOWN ON  
EARTH: DELAND CENTENNIAL  
1873-1973









# *The Biggest Little Town*



*by Myrta Grace Paugh*



First depot



Second depot

## THE SMALL TOWN DEPOT

by Craig Sathoff

The red frame building proud and stanch  
beside the busy track  
Was bustling with activity in time a few  
years back.  
Its agent was a shipping clerk, and  
stationmaster, too.  
He was the chief telegrapher and harbinger  
of news.  
The depot was the very pulse within the  
little town;  
It welcomed loads of needed coal and made  
the shipments known.  
It served the people faithfully, a guardian  
and a friend,  
Their many needs to satisfy, Their  
messages to send.

(Used by permission)

## THE PLAINT OF THE 1973

### SMALL TOWN DEPOT

by M.G.P. with  
apologies to Sathoff.

The small depot still stands beside a lonely  
track.  
The people travel in a car or ride the new  
Amtrack.  
The freight still runs through town, and  
picks up corn and beans,  
And brings in lumber, sand or oil, because  
no other means  
Are there to get the big things in. The small  
are sent by mail,  
Or routed to another town, It's enough to  
make one wail!  
There is no agent now in town to send a  
message out.  
The telephone is faster, much, Of that there  
is no doubt.  
The railroad started out our town a hundred  
years ago.  
It serves us now much less, by far. Progress  
is now its foe.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Miss Emma Piatt — Piatt County History

DeWitt-Piatt County Biographical History

Chas. McIntosh — Piatt County History

Francis Shonkwiler — Piatt County History

Morgan, Jessie — The Good Life in Piatt County

Piatt County newspapers — Herald, Independent and Republican — 1872-1902

DeLand Tribune — 1902 to Feb. 1973

I wish to express my appreciation for all of these and for many DeLand people I have interviewed including, Mrs. Donna Reid, Mrs. L. Borton, Mrs. Chas. Marvel, Clifford Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Alva Reid, P.E. Fonner, Mrs. John Adams, Mrs. C.C. Trigg, W.B. Trenchard, Mrs. Marie Gantz, Mrs. Ora Holforthy, Clyde Porter, and others.

Thanks to Mrs. Donn Hermann who has acted as photographer and to Mrs. Marjorie Huisinga for being a chauffeur.

The Evening Woman's Club has also been of help on various occasions.



By Myrta Grace Paugh

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA CHAMPAIGN



## BIGGEST LITTLE TOWN

In May of 1973, DeLand, Illinois will be one hundred years old. It is a small town in East Central Illinois, located on the Champaign-Havana Branch of the Illinois Central railroad and on Route 10, a highway crossing the state from east to west. Situated near the central part of Goose Creek Township in Piatt County, it lies in Section 9 of Township 19 north, Range 5 east of the 3rd Principal meridian just a few miles north of the 40 parallel.

DeLand is the only village in the township which consists of about 54 sections. DeLand was founded in 1873 by Thomas E. Bondurant, who had it laid out as an answer to the needs of the local farmers for a place from which to ship their grain without hauling it for a very long distance.

Many changes have occurred during that one hundred years. The town has sometimes advanced in its growth, sometimes receded. Many events have influenced its growth. The purpose of this book is to show the great changes it has experienced. It is difficult to visualize the days of the long ago. Were the early settlers able to see us today, they would rub their eyes in amazement. Some of our common articles would be incomprehensible to them. We have an advantage over them for our books, movies and television show us what it was like in Pioneer days, but even these media cannot predict with precision the things that our descendants will see.

We have used many sources in ferreting out the facts of DeLand's history. We hope that the things we tell are true. If we have slipped in some untruths, we can only repeat a couplet that the DeLand Tribune used to use:

"We know not what the truth may be.

We tell it as 'twas told to us."

Originally, I intended to dedicate this book to the Pioneers of DeLand, some of whom I knew when I was a child. But my life time interest has been children — first those whom I taught in the rural schools of Goose Creek Township and elsewhere, and second, the many children who came to the Library for books and school material while I was Librarian. To them I dedicate this history of their own community with the hope that it will interest them and gain their respect for all history, because it is their Heritage.

Myrta Grace Paugh

## PROLOGUE

"Where we walk to school each day,  
Indian children used to play.  
All about our native land,  
Where the streets and houses stand.  
Not a church and not a steeple,  
Only woods and Indian people."

That was how it was when the first white settlers first arrived in Piatt county. Few

white people had been in this area before Illinois became a state in 1818. The early settlers in Illinois made their homes along streams, shunning the prairies as they believed them unfit for farming. And the area now known as Piatt county was definitely prairie.

When they did arrive, they found Indians. Not fierce dangerous redskins, but friendly members of the Delaware, Potawatamie and Kickapoo tribes. There are few stories told about them — possibly because they were peaceful I have never heard one authentic story of the Indians in Goose Creek Township. That there were Indians here is evident. Many, many arrowheads and other Indian artifacts have been found, and there are indications that there were buffalo wallows on the farms of Chris Roos and Martha Hursh Yowell where Persons live. John Gantz still hunts arrowheads along the creek and just a short time ago they found a two-toned one on the Hursh farm.

Goose Creek is just across the township line from Buck's pond which was the home of the Indian named Buck and his wife whom he married to save her from death after she had been condemned for killing twin babies in a jealous rage. And William Piatt, who later lived in Goose Creek was the man who read the Bible to a group of Indians and had one take it from him to show that he, too, could read it.

Before these Indians, there were the Mound Builders and other prehistoric people — all of whom left traces of their existence in this region — especially along the Sangamon and its tributaries.

## EARLY CLAIMS

After the discovery of America, the Illinois country was claimed by several governments. The Spaniards discovered the Mississippi river in 1641 and claimed all land bordering it. Actually, they were only in Illinois once, and that not until 1781. In that year, a band of Spanish soldiers stationed at a fort in the vicinity of St. Louis, decided to surprise the English who were occupying a small outpost in southern Michigan. A band of Spanish soldiers and Indians marched across Illinois, surprised and captured the garrison, after which they made another cold march back to their fort. They accomplished nothing by the trip but they are of interest to us because they may have marched across Goose Creek Township by a trail that took them near to Danville where they are known to have turned north.

The French claims to the Mississippi valley are more valid than those of the Spanish since they did explore much of the region and made the first white settlements. But not in central Illinois. The French were followed by the British who arrived during the years following the French and Indian War and wrested the

French rights from them. The British, in turn, were ousted by the Americans under George Rogers Clark and his pioneer stalwarts who claimed the area for Virginia.

When the Revolutionary war came to an end and the American government was set up, Virginia ceded her claim to the Federal Government who set up the Ordinance of 1787 to administer the Northwest Territory — the region north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi. From this territory finally emerged the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin and a small portion of Minnesota. As these areas gained a certain population that allowed them to become a state, they were cut off from the remainder of the area. Illinois attained the desired population in 1818 and became a state. Soon afterward, the Hawthorns and the Hanelines, the Martins and the Piatts arrived in what was to be Piatt county (in 1822 and 1824). None of these families lived in Goose Creek Township except one son of the Piatt's, William, who moved across the creek following his marriage in 1838.

## PIATT COUNTY

When we speak of Piatt County and Goose Creek Township and DeLand, we must remember that Piatt County was not formed until 1841, Goose Creek Township until 1861, and DeLand until 1873. Piatt county was formed from portions of Macon and DeWitt counties. To begin with, Illinois was first in the Ohio territory, then in Indiana, then in Illinois territory before it became a state. In Indiana territory it was part of Knox and St. Clair Counties. In Illinois territory, it started out as one big county also called St. Clair. As the population grew, there was a need to be closer to county seats, and gradually counties were divided and sub-divided so that what is now Piatt county had been in the territorial counties of St. Clair, Madison (struck off in 1790), Edwards (1812), Crawford (1814) and Clark (1816). Then Illinois had enough people to become a state, and did so in 1818. In 1819, Piatt became a part of Fayette county, in 1821-Shelby, and in 1829-Macon. The part Goose Creek township was in became a part of Dewitt that was struck off from Macon and McLean in 1839. The settlement of Piatt County began in 1822. Ezra Marquiss, who came here in 1833 boasted that he had lived in three counties without moving — Macon, Dewitt and Piatt!

Before 1861, each county was considered a governmental unit, although the northern counties, where most of the people came from the New England States, would have preferred the town form of government they were accustomed to. In 1849 or 50, the State Legislature passed a bill that allowed the township form, and Piatt county adopted it in 1861.

Piatt county had been formed in 1841, because of the distance folks had to travel to the county seat at Decatur. Those were



horse and buggy days and Decatur was a good distance from Monticello. A trip there was a real chore. Thus it was that the people of Piatt county began considering a county of its own. After much discussion, three committees were formed to canvass adjoining areas of Macon, Dewitt and Champaign counties.

The three men who carried the petitions in the eastern part of Dewitt county were Abraham Marquiss, his son Ezra, and William Barnes. They were successful in getting enough signers as were the three who canvassed the eastern part of Macon county. The people canvassed in Champaign county were not interested in a change. George Patterson, a school teacher, carried the petition to Springfield and presented it to the legislature. On January 7, 1841, Piatt county was declared a county. The boundaries set at that date have remained the same ever since.

The committee named the county Piatt for James A. Piatt, one of the earliest permanent settlers. He was a commissioner when the county seat was at Decatur, and had the reputation of always being on hand for meetings, no matter what the weather nor how difficult the trip.

Piatt county was first governed by a board of commissioners chosen from three established voting precincts -- Monticello, Okaw, and Sangamon. The area, later known as Goose Creek Township, was the western part of Sangamon precinct. Monticello, being the only town, was declared the county seat. At the first election, three commissioners, a Probate Justice of the Peace, a Sheriff, a surveyor, a recorder, a clerk, and a coroner were elected. This setup continued until the township form of government superseded it in 1861. Then the commissioners were replaced by a Board of Supervisors -- one elected from each township.

Sangamon precinct consisted of what is now Blue Ridge, Sangamon, and Goose Creek Townships.

## PRE-TOWNSHIP DAYS

The first settlement in what is now Goose Creek Township was in 1824, while the area was in Shelby County. A Mr. York built a cabin on the north side of Goose Creek where it empties into the Sangamon River. Mr. York came here from Kentucky but was originally from North Carolina. He did not stay very long. When his wife died, he returned to Kentucky.

David Cordell built the second cabin in 1830. By that time, Piatt County had passed from Shelby County into Macon County. Mr. Cordell also stayed but a short time, soon moving to a settlement on Friends Creek, another branch of the Sangamon, beginning in the southwest part of Goose Creek township and ending near Decatur. Later, Mr. Cordell moved on to Missouri.

In the same year, a Mr. Fry erected a third cabin at the mouth of Goose Creek. These three cabins are believed to have

been the only ones north of Goose Creek up to the time of the "Deep Snow" by which the early pioneers dated early events. If there were other settlers north of the creek, there is no mention of them in early history.

"The Deep Snow" occurred in 1830 causing much hardship among the settlers. It snowed continuously through most of the winter, becoming very deep and freezing over so that men could walk on top of it. Many animals died from the severe cold, and from getting mired in the snow where they froze and perished from lack of food. The settlers, too, were hungry, for they depended upon game for food. It was a winter to be remembered. People who lived here then are referred to as "The Snowbirds."

All of the early settlers settled close to streams. They needed timber for their houses and barns and for fuel. The easiest way to settle was to cut down the trees to make a clearing, build their cabin and use the surrounding clearing for growing crops. They erroneously believed that since the prairies did not grow trees, that it was not fertile. For many years they made no effort to cultivate it. The prairie grew tall grass -- higher than a man's head, and there were frequent prairie grass fires.

The settlements from 1830 on had more permanency. In 1831, Mr. Olney, a captain of the Revolutionary War built the fourth cabin north of Goose Creek. It and a second cabin built by him on land that was later William Piatt land, was occupied by Mr. Olney's sons. Both Mr. and Mrs. Olney died there but were buried at Hickory Point, but the remains were later disinterred by a grandson and placed in Piatt cemetery. The younger Olneys remained in the township until 1883. To my knowledge Captain Olney was the only veteran of the Revolution to live in our township.

## THE MARQUISES

The Olney cabin was but 12 by 14 feet, so you can imagine the crowded conditions that prevailed when Mr. Abraham Marquiss of Ohio, arrived in 1833, found one of the Olneys cabins vacant and decided to move in. There were twenty-one persons in his company and it was necessary for the men to continue to sleep in the wagons. Mr. Marquiss had with him, his wife, their six children, a younger sister, his brother-in-law, William Barnes and four children, and five Phillips children whom he took under his wing when he stopped in Terra Haute to see his sister and found that both she and her husband had died, leaving the children in the care of neighbors. It was a bitterly cold winter with food scarce, wolves numerous and dangerous. They were not long in putting up another cabin and taking

steps to make themselves secure.

When Mr. Marquiss decided to move here, he came with the intention of staying. He had previously visited the area and liked what he saw. His move to Piatt County was destined to be one of the early important events of Goose Creek. These people were civic minded and became very influential in the growth of both township and village.

The Marquiss family did not move in a covered wagon as most pioneer families did. The mother, father and girls traveled in a two horse carriage and stopped at night at dwellings along the way. The boys camped out. They got along nicely although there were only trails to follow and sometimes not even that. Ezra, the oldest son, age 21, drove a four horse team; John, an oxen team; and the other boys drove the cattle, horses, and sheep.

The cabin that Marquiss had picked out on his previous trip was not available when he arrived the second time. It was filled with flax, hence they went on to the Olney's. The Piatt family also gave them what help they could, as was the custom in those days. They immediately started making furniture, storing hay for feeding the stock through the winter, and fencing in a field to be ready for the spring planting. Throughout the winter, they were faced with a shortage of food. If they needed corn ground for cornmeal, they had to go clear to Decatur to get it ground. It was not an easy life, but these pioneers were hardy folk and survived the hardships.



Ezra Marquiss -- one of the earliest settlers in the township.

Ezra, the oldest son, was just twenty-one when they made the move to Illinois, and soon went back to Ohio to marry Maria Norris and bring her here. They had eight children, five of whom grew up, married, and settled nearby. Some of Ezra's descendants are still to be found in Goose



#### Creek Township.

Ezra's dream was to own land and he immediately began saving money to buy government land. He needed fifty dollars to begin with, but it took some time to accumulate it. Once, half of his savings was stolen while the family was away at church. It was necessary to haul grain clear to Chicago to market it. The amount sold and the fourteen days it took to make the trip made the profits low, but he was soon able to buy his first forty acres and add another eighty to it. By continuing in this manner, he eventually owned 2100 acres of land which he improved. But it took a long time.

The family lived much of the time on hominy, parched corn, and game from the woods. The hominy was made by pouring hot water on corn and pounding it until the hulls came off. They then poured it back and forth from dish to dish to get rid of the lighter hulls. There were no stores with packaged breakfast food or wrapped loaves of bread to buy. They scrambled for every bite they took. But they prospered in spite of hardships and considered their life good.

Ezra's autobiography, written for the county paper in 1888, gives a good picture of the life of a pioneer in Piatt county. One of his interesting stories is of the Sudden Freeze which came on the heels of a warm spell. There was snow on the ground, but a drizzling rain began to fall, and in an hour's time, the temperature had plummeted so that creeks and sloughs were frozen hard. It so happened that the Marquiss food supply was very low and it was necessary to take corn to the mill to grind into corn meal. First they had to take the horses to the blacksmith shop (some six miles away) to have them shod. They spent the day trying to get there. The horses could not keep their footing and when they crossed the stream they had to roll them across. Finally, they left them on the prairie and returned home for the night. In the morning they found the horses and continued their journey. He also describes a wolf hunt when he kept the wolves from attacking him by standing quietly and not showing fear. When he did not run, the wolves slunk away.

This family took a prominent part in the community. Both Abraham and Ezra helped to get Piatt county formed. Both Ezra and his son Seymour held several public offices in the township and in the village. Ezra was supervisor; Seymour was the first president of DeLand, and he served in the Illinois State Legislature. Mr. Abraham Marquiss was prominent in both county and township affairs for over fifty years. According to Miss Piatt's history he was: "A successful farmer, a practicing physician, a soldier of the War of 1812, and after moving to Piatt county, was a Justice of the Peace and an influential man in the county." To my knowledge, he was the only veteran of the

War of 1812 to live in Goose Creek Township.

Ezra Marquiss was the original "Mr. Republican" of Piatt County. Some say he cast his first ballot for Abraham Lincoln—others that he was originally a Whig and cast his first vote for John Fremont. Whatever his politics, he was one of the first members of the Republican party in Piatt County. He was one of the two men who escorted Lincoln to the Court House in Monticello to make a speech. This was a brave thing to do, for everyone else in Monticello was a Democrat! Lincoln began his speech with only Marquiss and Mr. Guy as audience but finished it before a good-sized audience as Monticelloans slipped in one or two at a time! Ezra was a member of the Republican Goose Creek committee and chairman of the Central County committee, assessor, member of the Board of school trustees, and the second supervisor elected after the township was formed.

Ezra joined the first Civil War company to be raised in Piatt county but was rejected. His son, Ezra Junior, however, served in the South for two years.



Seymour Marquiss — son of Ezra; Member of State Legislature; 1st. president of town board at DeLand.

Ezra's son Seymour was a prominent citizen of DeLand. Seymour lived on a farm near DeLand, but was living in the village when he became a resident of the Board. He and his wife had no children, but reared six girls, Sophia Norris (Mrs. Robert Cathcart), Lillie Ives (Mrs. Don Chandler of Nebraska), Minnie Hubbard (who died in California), Delta Parsons (Mrs. F.W. Keel of Monticello); and Jessie Parsons and Florence Tripp. The Marquisses lived in Monticello after their retirement. Besides being village president, he was assessor, township

clerk, highway commissioner, school director, and a member of the fortieth general assembly as the representative of the Thirteenth Senatorial District.



Mrs. Seymour Marquiss.

#### THE MCMILLENS

Another of the Marquisses—Pelina, married Frank McMillen, another early settler in Goose Creek Township. His father, Thomas McMillen, moved to Piatt county in 1856, and moved into some cabins owned by Ezra Marquiss. He later moved to Champaign county. He was the father of ten children five of whom lived in



Mrs. Frank McMillen (Pelina Marquiss, daughter of Ezra Sr., was with her father when he escorted Lincoln to Court House.)



Piatt county after their marriages. These were: Frank, Caroline, who married Seymour Marquiss; a daughter who married a son of Andrew Barnes; George; and Martha, who married Dr. Davis, a doctor at DeLand.

Frank and Pelina reared seven children: Clarabel, who married Curtis Borton, a Goose Creek Township resident; Frank (Hank); Thomas; Fred; the others dying at an early age. Mr. Frank McMillen was veteran of the Civil War.

Mr. McMillen and his family were also civic minded people. All three of the boys lived on farms southeast of DeLand. The mother lived with Thomas in her later years. Hank and Fred raised fine race horses. Fred had a race track in one of his fields where he trained his horses. Hank was road commissioner for several years.



E.T. McMillen — banker at DeLand.

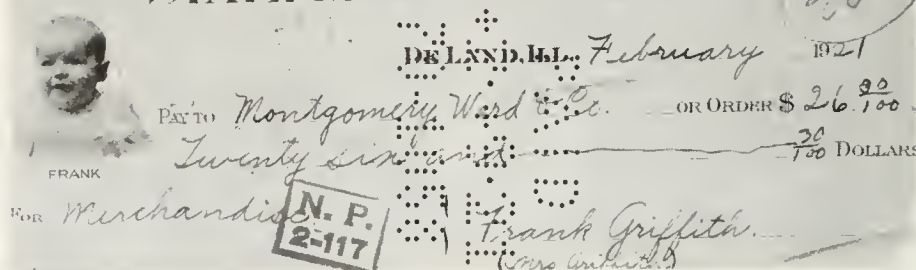


Mrs. E.T. McMillen

Thomas (E.T.) was cashier of the State Bank for a long time. When it closed its

## STATE BANK OF DE LAND

No. 2



McMillan was so delighted to have a boy after two girls that he had the baby's picture put on checks. Probably only checks ever to have baby picture on them.



Inside State Bank

doors in the 1920's, he became an insurance agent. Tom McMillen was interested in DeLand and was behind and worked for every good thing that was ever suggested for DeLand. He was particularly interested in the building of the Library, was one of the first trustees and also the force behind two of the town's early bands, leading the first one and early bands, leading the first one and managing the second. He was also much interested in the schools. His daughter Martha and sons Frank and Wayne moved away in early adulthood. Edna married Earl Hiett, the assistant cashier at the bank. Both were teachers before that. Earl was killed in an automobile accident. She married Harry Merry who was the director of the later band. She is now Mrs. James Cooper of Monticello. She has a son, Max, and a daughter, Martha. Wayne distinguished himself in his work, being for many years assistant to the president of the American Airlines in New York and later joined the Morgan Guaranty bank as Trust officer.

Fred had two daughters, Hazel who lives in Monticello, and Geneva who married Harm Huisinga and was the mother of Jim and Joe both Goose Creek township farmers. Joe's children are the great-great-grandchildren of the first McMillen in the township, the great-great-grandchildren of Abraham Marquiss. They are also the fourth

generation of Huisinga's. Two of these children have children.

We know of two other families in Goose Creek Township that are descendants of the Marquisses. One is Lawrence Marquiss who lives in the brick house on the Monticello road where the Miner house once stood. He has four daughters—all married—two of whom live in Monticello. Lawrence is the son of Paul. Paul's father was Oliver Marquiss, his grandfather was Henry. Henry's father was Charles—brother of Ezra and son of Abraham.

Dale Robinson and Wilma Grant Robinson and her two daughters, Their great-grandfather, William Fitzwater, married Mary Marquiss, daughter of Ezra Marquiss, Senior.



### OTHER EARLY SETTLERS

The life of the Marquisses was typical of other pioneers in Piatt county. Among those who settled in the township before the County was formed in 1841 were: Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bailey and several children who arrived in 1835, and Abraham Collins who settled on what was later known as the James Miner place. Collins built the brick house which stood for many years where the Lawrence Marquiss home is now.

In 1839, the Reverend Thomas Welch came to Illinois from Indiana. He bought land in the southern part of Goose Creek Township and some of his descendants still own it and live on it. He was a Christian preacher from 1839 to 1858, preaching in Piatt and surrounding counties. He was married twice and had a large family including John H., Mason, Paul and Cephas who remained in Goose Creek



Township.

His older son, John H. followed his father to Piatt county in 1840, stayed for forty years and then moved on to Kansas. John's son, Thomas E. Welch remained here, married Susanna Robinson Croninger and reared three sons — Charles C., Eddie E., and William W.

Charles lived across the road in Willow Branch Township and was the father of Ecus Vaughn, the champion cornhusker. He also had a son Thomas who lived on Rev. Welch's first eighty acres. His son Thomas, Jr. lives there today. The younger Thomas' son Jack was a casualty of Viet Nam.

E.E. Welch and W.W. Welch both lived in that neighborhood. W.W. Welch's wife was Emma Morgan who lived on the farm until a few years ago. She retired to Monticello where at the age of 92 she is very active. The Welch farms still in the family are probably Centennial farms.

We have no record of people who came in the 40's though there must have been some. But the 1850's brought quite a number. There was the Jesse Fitzwater family in 1851, Mark Harshbarger and George Duvall in 1852; William Marvel in 1852; Martha Bondurant and five children including Thomas B., who was later to found DeLand in 1854; Mr. Johnson and Benjamin Kesner in 1855; John Kirby, the McMillems, the Miners, Wm. S. Martin, and Rev. Smith Finian in 1856; and rounding out the fifties were the Albert Bortons who still have descendants here, the Langdon's who helped build DeLand, Harry McFadden, in 57, James A. Brown in 1858, and John Vail who helped DeLand get started and Albert England in 1859. John Kesner and John Kingston arrived in 1855 and the Wellington Edwards sometime in the fifties.

Jesse Fitzwater settled in the eastern part of the township and land there is still owned by his descendants. Mrs. Ethel Dalton owns the land her father Roy Fitzwater owned and lived there until her marriage. She is a former teacher of DeLand, living now in Monticello. Dale and Lorene Robinson live upon Fitzwater land. Dale and his sister, Wilma Grant are descendants. There may be others. Jesse Fitzwater improved a 350 acre farm, draining it as all early settlers had to do with their farm land. One day's ditching cost him \$112. He put out hedge and planted two hundred trees. The Robinson family were the children of Sylvia Fitzwater, daughter of Dale who was the son of William and Mary Marquiss Fitzwater. Many of the Fitzwater descendants were residents of this township.

The William Marvel settled in DeWitt county across the line from Piatt but four of his children settled in Goose Creek township and there are still Marvels here. There was Henry Storey Marvel who was a Civil War Veteran and is said to have started the first Sunday School in Goose Creek Township. Then there was Mar-

maduke who settled about a mile west of DeLand — building a house of one room and enlarging it to six where the Bert McBride family use to live just north of Miss Swishers. Marmaduke was very active in the community. He was school director of District five which included the later districts of DeLand and Western. When he left in 1883, the price of land had risen from six dollars to 60. Frank was a veteran of the Civil War and was a drummer boy while in service. Inez Edwards has his drum. He was a great horseman, he is buried in DeLand.

Louis was also an old soldier, Louis' son Charles married Edith Swisher and was the father of Zelda Marvel, the local librarian. The son George married Flora Crisman. They were the parents of Golda Jones and Inez Edward. Inez lives in DeLand and has a number of children but only one who lives here — George Edwards who has three little girls.

Louis' wife was Eliza Margaret McBride, daughter of George McBride.

Albert Borton came from Ohio to Goose Creek Township in 1857. He settled near DeLand, later buying a farm about a mile north of where the village of DeLand was built. He and his wife, Nancy Sarver Borton had ten children. Curtis married Clara McMillen, Mary was the wife of Wm. Barnett, Joshua who came to the township in 1864, Charles, Edwin, Albert, Lusina, William and Byron.

Most of these lived around DeLand for awhile. Mr. Borton was active in the community and was Justice of the Peace for five years.



Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Borton — early settlers with living descendants here today.

Joshua L. (Lincoln) Borton succeeded his father on the home farm and lived there until his son Lorin took over when he and his wife, Belle Wilson, retired to DeLand. Here they were very active in the community. Mrs. Borton remembered much about the early days of the Methodist church. She also took an active

part in the activities of the woman's club. She was particularly active in the project of getting a chapel for the cemetery.

The Bortons had three children — Faurest of Monticello, Lorin of DeLand and Fern Kingsboro (deceased). Lorin's son Karl now farms the home place and Lorin and Grace (Hutchinson) live in DeLand. Karl married Loveta Jasper, daughter of a former Methodist pastor. They have three daughters — Karla, Shelley and Robin and a son Tom. So the fourth and fifth generations are now living on the home farm. Fern's son, Leland Kingsboro lives about a mile south of town on the Wilson farm which his grandmother inherited.



Mrs. McFadden, early settler.

Henry McFadden was a saddler and house painter in Monticello until he moved to a farm east of DeLand in 1857. He farmed it until his death in 1903 at which time the son Harry took over the farm and lived there until his death. Mrs. McFadden and her daughter, Miss Emma built a cottage in DeLand where they lived until their deaths. Living with them in later years were two daughters who had married and returned after the death of their husbands. All of them lived to be aged — the mother being past ninety when she died.

James A. Brown settled on the farm where John Leischner now lives in 1858 and lived there until early in the 80's. Some of their children were Emma who married Joseph Rankin who had a hotel in DeLand in the early days; and Ada who became Mrs. Ellis Reed.

Alva Reed's mother, Mollie Hayes who spent much of her later life in DeLand was another daughter, as was Lucy Brown Gordan — Emma Porter's (Mrs. Clifford) mother. I believe she was also the mother of Maggie Gordan Adams.

Wm. S. Martin bought 80 acres in the southwest corner of the township in 1856.



After adding to the farm, he retired in 1894 and his son Oliver ran the place. Edgar O. Martin, another son also farmed Martin land in this and Willow Branch Township. A farm east of the Martin home place was inherited by Elbert Martin, son of Edgar. It is occupied today by Elbert's daughter Imogene and her husband, Lonnie Smith. The Smith's have several children all of whom are married.

#### 1860's and 70's

The 1860's saw many more settlers arrive. Many of these in the latter part of the decade were veterans of the Civil War. Coming home from the War, many sought homes in new localities, especially where there was good land to be had at a reasonable price. Some of these were the Morgan's, Daniel Buzzell, John Carrington, John Carrier, Hiram Dillin, George McBride, R.B. Moody who was later to be of importance to DeLand, Henry Gantz, future DeLand storekeeper, Henry Gilmore, J.B. Gordan, Joseph Rankin — future hotel proprietor, James Stephenson, Jacob Mansfield, John Dresback, John Campbell, and the Meents family who settled in the German neighborhood of Kentuck and started the Kentuck church, Mrs. Meents was a Goken.

Emma Morgan Welch, today living in Monticello after a long residence in Goose Creek township, was the daughter of John and Susan Dawson Morgan, who bought land a couple of miles east of DeLand in 1868, hauling the lumber with which to build a house from Bement, which was then the only railroad station in the county. He built his house on the highest point of the farm which resulted in it today being set far back from the road. The land around him was all swamp land and had to be drained. The original house is part of the present structure and is owned by Mrs. Welch so it must be a Centennial farm. The John Morgan's reared seven children. Local people remember Ezra who sold coal for many years at Combes Switch; Frank, who for awhile conducted a small goose farm east of town; and Ed, a school teacher who was the father of Birch Morgan who is now a Judge in the 6th Division Circuit Court. Birch is the only Morgan grandchild. He lives in Monticello with his wife who was Jessie Borer and the author of "The GOOD DAYS IN PIATT COUNTY." Mrs. Welch was the only girl in the family, went to Fairview school, had an excellent voice, and was active in the Methodist Church at DeLand, one of the early Literary Societies, and the W.C.T.U. At one of the W.C.T.U. Silver medal contests she won first place. Mrs. Welch who has had for years a Sunday School class in Monticello Methodist Church was recently honored with a surprise open house. She still drives her car, looks after her farms, attends the Friendship Club meetings in DeLand and by being active, refuses to grow old.

John Carrier came to Goose Creek

township in 1869. He married Sarah Hoyt and had three sons — E.D.; W.H.; and C.E. Carrier. Mr. Carrier was a Civil War Veteran, Mrs. Carrier lived to be in her nineties and spent the latter part of her life in darkness as did her son William. Both were poets of talent. Grandma Carrier wrote poetry for and to all her friends and on special occasions at the Methodist Church she stood up and recited the poem written for the occasions. Her children had her poetry made into a commemorative book. The Carriers lived for many years in the house now occupied by Lyle Barr.



Mrs. John Carrier — early settler and blind poet.

Hiram Dillon, bought land in Goose Creek township about 1867 which was later occupied by his son Robert. Robert married Alzina Marsh and when they retired, they moved into DeLand to the house now owned by E.E. Leischner. Mrs. Dillin's half-sister and her husband Henry Eyler ran the farm for many years now occupied by Smiths just south and east of DeLand. Mrs. Eyler was Rozzella Tilson.

Henry Gilmore's farm was north west of DeLand. He was the father of Charlie Gilmore who lived on the farm for many years. Mr. Gilmore and his wife, Leota Murphy, live in Leroy.

There have been a number of McBride families who have lived in the DeLand area—both township and village since 1860 when George McBride moved to a farm west of DeLand from Fulton County. He was married twice, to Sophia Wisnan and later to Eliza Long. By them, he had ten children. These children included: Eliza, wife of Louis Marvel whose children were Golda (Mrs. Jim Jones-deceased) and Inez (Mrs. Wellington Edwards) of DeLand, whose son George lives in DeLand. David, who married Nellie Fullenrider of Goose Creek. Children were Jesse who formerly lived here and at one time ran the Fonner

store; Ollie (Mrs. Harve Clemon) whose children Cecil and Lorin still live here; Bert; Hattie Ann (Mrs. Howard Bartison) whose children still live in the county; and Glenn who now lives in Clinton but has a son Wendell living in the township. Bert, who now lives in Ohio and had a large family of boys but has lost several was the father of Raymond who was drowned in Goose Creek during high water. Jacob McBride — son of George was Mrs. Minnie Bickel's father, his descendants here include Lola Trigg and Daisy Adams. Mary Ann married George Race and lived here for awhile. Phillip married Mary Johnson and had three children — one of whom died in infancy. Frank was the father of Essel, Marie and Dorothy and the grandfather of Dorothy Hermann, daughter of Essel. The Hermann's have a son and two daughters living at home though two are at Wesleyan University. They lost one son in an accident. Phillip's other child was Katherine (Mrs. Mart Miller) who lived in Goose Creek and for many years in DeLand where the Swanstrom's live. Corda (Mrs. Cecil Bosher-deceased) Dale and Thelma who lives in Clinton were their children. William McBride, who married a half-sister of Harriet Bowsher reared Harriet and Edna Griffin Hayes Lubbers after their parents died. George McBride Jr. was the father of Myrtle Fitzwater (Mrs. Roy) the mother of Ethel Dalton, a long-time teacher here. Mr. George McBride probably ranks with the Marquisses in having descendants live in Goose Creek township!

William Dewees, father of Wiley and Charles Dewees came in 1865. He was a Civil War veteran, Wiley was an early teacher here and Chas. married one of the Porter girls and lived here for quite a while. Another child was Fanny who married Charles Marquiss.

Elijah Campbell came to this township in 1870. He married Sarah Ater and had a number of children most of whom have lived around here. Atha Cox—mother of Leith Fonger and Lois. Hattie Wisegarver—who lived in Harriet Bowsher's house until the health of her daughter Aubra took them to the West; Cora Huddleston; Nona Wisegarver, mother of Carter Wisegarver, Pearl Haggard whose children attended school here. Ray, Turner, Caddie Moody, Waive and Dee. When Mr. Campbell retired he came to town and built the house now occupied by Hermann Meyers. Naomi Wisegarver's children are grandchildren of Smith and Nona Wisegarver.

The Wisegarver's were also early settlers though they settled in DeWitt county. They owned land in Goose Creek, however, the family were connected with the Christian church here and the children attended school in DeLand. Ora Holforty and Marie Hursh are grandchildren, as well as those mentioned above. The elder Wisegarver owned much land in Goose Creek township. The Wisegarver school was built on their land.



Joel Churchill was also an early settler of the 1870's. He married Lucretia Bondurant. One son, Edgar, spent his life north east of DeLand where Howard Gantz lives today and then lived many years in DeLand, living first where Wrench's live and then in the Hermann Meyer house. They finally moved to Cerro Gordo. Both were quite old when they died, Mrs. Churchill passing shortly after her 100th birthday. They had one son, Wayne, who died in a farm accident. His wife was Gertrude Conner who was the local telephone operator for many years. Edgar's brother Will also remained in the township, being the father of Alice Churchill Conner, Harold and Edgar and Gertrude Jordan.

John Kirby, veteran, member of the 2nd Illinois Cavalry, had one horse shot out from under him but escaped any injury himself. He returned to the county and in 1868 was elected sheriff. After that he was in the stock business. His farm was in the eastern part of the township.

John W. Kingston came to Piatt county about 1867 from Woodford county. He bought 280 acres for seven dollars an acre in the southwest part of Goose Creek township which he farmed until 1893 when he retired and turned his land over to his boys. Mrs. Kingston's name was Sarah Bunting, daughter of John and Jane Bunting who were also residents of Goose Creek township. Mr. John W. Kingston was director of Enterprise school for many years as was his son George W. Kingston and his grandson Carl Kingston. All three lived upon this original farm, Carl until his death recently. His son Robert and family lives in Weldon. Carl's other two sons, Corwin and Franklin also live there. Robert has two children.

John Cyphers, veteran of the Civil War purchased eighty acres near DeLand in 1870. Mr. Cyphers had five children but lost four, three at one time from diphtheria. His son Jerry, grew up and married and had two children. He moved from here. Mr. Cyphers lived to be quite an old man. His house, which stood just east of the Trenchard home and park, was destroyed by fire.

Charles Dewey who lived  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of DeLand first bought 120 acres and then increased his holdings until at one time he owned 1000 acres of land. He had a number of children including Hattie Dewey Convey who lived in Farmer City. She said that her father was a director of Wisegarver school at one time. Both of these farms is a Centennial farm. Mrs. Covey's daughters own them.

John Dresback, Civil War veteran, first settled in Willow Branch Township in 1855 but later moved to Goose Creek. The Dresback's owned the farm now occupied by Rex Webb. He retired to town and built a home where Nelda Olson's house now stands. This home was destroyed by fire. Some of the Dresback children were Jessie, who married T.J. Ennis and lives

in Champaign; (she was a member of the first graduating class of DeLand High School); Irma Dresback married J.F. Rankin who was the owner of the Rankin hotel on Main Street; and Eva married Lyle Cathcart who bought the Tilson blacksmith shop and ran it for many years.

Henry Gantz came to Illinois in 1867. After working on a Swigart farm for about a year, he bought forty acres in Piatt county. He traded it for 160 acres in Goose Creek township and operated it until 1883 when he moved to DeLand. In 1882 he erected a tile factory but sold it two years later and bought into the mercantile business of the Rinehart's. During the years that followed, the store was known as the Gantz Mercantile Co., Gantz and Dewees, Gantz and Co. The son Ira eventually took over the store. Mr. Gantz had three children — Ira, Hattie (Mrs. Dr. Chas. Smith of St. Louis) and Inez, who became Mrs. George Hursh.

Ira, who married Marie Hursh, went back to farming after running the Gantz store for several years. Their home is a mile south and west of DeLand. Their only son Richard now lives there. His sons William and John also farm in the township. Mrs. Gantz was honored a year ago on her ninetieth birthday. She has a comfortable home in DeLand.

Mr. and Mrs. Gantz' wedding is of interest because it was held as a surprise at an Epworth league convention which they were attending at the time!

Marie Gantz was the daughter of Daniel Hursh and Abbie Wisegarver — daughter of George Wisegarver. Dan settled on a farm north east of DeLand before 1875. His father, John Hursh, also lived in the township. Mrs. Hursh died when Marie was very young and she was reared by her grandparents the George Wisegarver's. There were two other children, Ora, who married Charles Holforty and at one time lived on her father's farm; and George, who owned and farmed it but lived in DeLand where he was cashier of the First National Bank. Mr. Hursh started out his career as a school teacher. He married Inez Gantz, sister of Ira. They had one daughter Martha (Yowell) who now owns the farm. Donn Persons farms it.

The Holforty's have three sons — Gerald who lives in Monticello. His wife was Marian Ennis — daughter of a local Methodist pastor; Ted who married Sebern Leischner and lives in Arizona; and Glenn of Wisconsin.

The Hubbard family was of importance to Goose Creek Township in the early days, as William C. Hubbard served in the legislature in the year 1874 and again in 1895 — elected on the Republican ticket. When he was a member of the House, he was said to "have given every consideration to every question that came up." He was a Civil War veteran — a member of the 107th infantry under

Colonel Snell's regiment. Colonel Snell was connected later with the laying of this stretch of the railroad and the founding of Weldon).

Mr. Hubbard's first wife was Clarinda Marquiss by whom he had one daughter—Florence, later Mrs. Wiley Dewees of DeLand. He had seven children by his second wife—including Edith and Oliver who were teachers in the township as was his son Richard, who after a year or two of teaching went into the Ministry. He preached at Ogden for two years but his health failed so he returned and farmed his father's farm. This farm was that upon which Donald Huisinga lives. He married Iris Porter and had four children—Faith, Ruth, Paul and Dwight. None of the family lives here now.

James Stephenson, came to Goose Creek township in the late 60's, first renting a farm, then buying 240 acres where he lived until 1903 when he retired and moved to DeLand. He held the office of Justice of the Peace for four years. His daughter Minnie was the wife of E.O. Dillavou, one of DeLand's early blacksmiths. I believe this man was the grandfather of Viva Stephenson who was a resident of DeLand for many years—conducting a hardware business. Viva usually comes to our Homecoming, although he is in his eighties.

Five generations of Reeds have lived in Piatt County and most of them have lived near DeLand. John (Jack) Reed, now farming near Lodge, makes the fifth generation to cultivate the soil of this county. Both Alva and his son Edwin have lived here all their lives. Amos Reed moved to Piatt County in the early 1870's living in DeLand on farms west of the new town. Amos farmed on the farm now owned by the O'Daffers and the Barnes farm. The O'Daffer farm was along the railroad which his son Ellis helped to grade the right of way with a team of mules.

Ellis Reed came with his father in a covered wagon. On the way he was very ill with typhoid fever. He worked for the Chandlers for awhile on a farm south of Weldon. He played the violin (the Alva Reeds still have it and Alva's children — Lowell and Leah played it in the High School orchestra at the Township High School) and he and the Chandler boys played for most of the dances around DeLand, Weldon and Argenta. He married Ada Brown and moved to what was later Gilmore land northwest of DeLand, Mrs. Reed was the daughter of James A. Brown mentioned earlier. Ellis Reed and wife were the parents of two children—Alva and Olive. Olive died of typhoid the year she graduated. Ellis Reed bought property in DeLand where Mrs. Alva Reed lives and retired there.

Alva Reed married Lottie Cameron. They have four children living—Lowell Reed of Pennsylvania; Bernice Hammit of Chicago; Leah West of McKinney, Texas and Edwin Reed who farms the land



where his father lived before retirement. Alva Reed's moved to the Ellis Reed home after his parents death. Mr. Reed was a school director for many years, was on the cemetery board for a long time and was active in the community and the Christian Church. Mrs. Reed is in her nineties. They celebrated their fiftieth anniversary by riding in a wagon driving a team of horses in the parade at Homecoming.

Edwin married Lola Huisinga and they have four children—Mary Ann a nurse, Joan and Carol in College and Jim in the eighth grade. Edwin farms considerable acreage, is on the Library Board and is active in the community and church.

Arwine Reed who lived west of DeLand on what is now the John Ammann place was another prominent farmer. He was a charter member of the DeLand Christian Church. He raised fine race horses. His daughter Iris Shelton lives in Decatur. Pearl Flanigan Dresback, who was his step daughter, taught in DeLand Grade School.

I am sure that there were many other residents of Goose Creek township before DeLand was founded, but there is, to my knowledge, no record of them. I should like to track them down and include them in honor of their contribution to our heritage but lack of time and space makes it impossible. Most of the information concerning the people mentioned here has been condensed from the four old county histories and from obituaries in the DeLand Tribune. Many of the articles were of great interest, but they were too long for our space. I am sure that you will know from these sketches that Goose Creek township was built by hard working, responsible men and women and that their efforts have helped to make our lives the good life we have here today.

#### AND NOW — A TOWNSHIP!

For twenty years, the entire county of Piatt was governed by a group of commissioners elected at the voting precincts set up in 1841. But in 1856, the General Assembly passed a bill that made it possible for counties to also have township government if they so desired. Piatt County so desired. In 1860 she took the necessary steps to set up township government. The county was divided into eight townships—Blue Ridge, Sangamon, Goose Creek, Monticello, Willow Branch, Bement, Cerro Gordo, and Unity. A supervisor was elected from each township to look after the affairs of that township and to sit on the county board and manage the affairs of the county as a whole.

The township form of government lasted over a hundred years—from 1861 to 1970. On the latter year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that county government should be set up according to the "one man, one vote" theory — declaring that the old way

was unconstitutional because some supervisors represented more people than others. To comply with this decision, the supervisors divided the county into three districts, each one of which is to elect two representatives to sit on the county board. This board is concerned with the affairs that affect the county such as taxes, the nursing home, county roads, etc. The local business of the township is still administered by the township board headed by a supervisor elected in that township. At the election of April 1, 1971, Mr. Harper of Blue Ridge and Mr. Branch of Sangamon were elected to represent District one, composed of Blue Ridge, Sangamon, Goose Creek, Willow Branch, and a portion of Bement Township. Monticello Township comprises District two and the remainder of the county — Cerro Gordo, Unity and the rest of Bement Township makes up District three. The population in the three districts are as equal as the board could make it.

This set-up should work out as well as the old although there may have to be boundary changes from time to time as the population shifts just as there are congressional district changes as the population shifts.

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Goose Creek Township received its name from the creek that flows through it. The creek, in turn, was given the name by early settlers who noticed that each year a pair of wild geese nested on its banks west of the site of DeLand. Some people did not like the name "Goose Creek" for the township and in the 1890's a petition was circulated and sent to the Board of Supervisors requesting that the name be changed to "DeLand Township." This was reported in the county paper by the DeLand correspondent who commented:

"This certainly is a wise thing to do. Whatever conditions were in the early days to suggest the name, is no longer consistent with the natural conditions of our township, works financial prejudice by conveying a false impression of our land. The truth is, we have as valuable land as can be found anywhere."

Evidently the Supervisors were not impressed as there were never any more items in the paper concerning the petition or its fate. And the name "Goose Creek" still stands. Incidentally, no one now seems to mind it.

The truth is, we DO have as valuable land as can be found anywhere — some of the richest land in the Nation is found in Piatt and some of the surrounding counties. When the elevators at DeLand can take in over a million bushels of corn in one year, as they did in 1971, one wonders just what "financial prejudice" was created by the township's name!

#### TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

After the township form of government went into effect in 1861, an election was held to elect the governmental officials. The first Supervisor was Seth Langdon, who lived on a farm south of DeLand. The second supervisor was Ezra Marquiss, the third, T. E. Bondurant. There have been eighteen men since then who have served in that office. They were: M.M. Harshbarger, J.H. Campbell, Dr. J.H. Wood, John Kirby, W.F. McMillen, Wiley Dewees, A.H. Dilatush, L.M. Marvel, S.C. Rodman, John Olson, G.R. Trechard, G.R. Hursh, Carlyle Doyle, Wm. G. Trigg, Harry Bickel, John Leischner, Irl Cathcart, and Roy Mullvain. Of these, only Leischner, Trigg and Mulvain, are living. Mulvain is the supervisor at the present time. (These names are not in order. Some served several terms, others only one. And one or two resigned before their terms were finished).

In addition to the supervisor, other officials of the township have included a town clerk, town treasurer, assessor, collector, road commissioner, a constable, Justice of the Peace, and three town auditors. Some of these have been eliminated over the years. Now we elect the supervisor who acts as treasurer, the clerk, the assessor, the road commissioner and the three auditors. The supervisor handles all the monies, including the levies of the Carnegie Library and the Cemetery Board, both of which are supported by township taxation, but function separately. The two boards have always been elected as non-political offices.

Taxes are now collected by the county treasurer. They can be paid at this office or at the local bank. Levies for all departments are made at a town meeting at the town hall in April. Ordinances are passed then as needed. All citizens are eligible to attend and vote on any business that is voted upon. The town meeting is patterned after the old town meetings of New England.

The township board has certain functions which it has exercised over the years including the care of the poor, the building and maintenance of roads and bridges, the floating of the railroad bonds, collecting dog taxes, the building of a pound. Some of these are things of the past including the railroad bonds and dog taxes. The bonds are paid and the dog taxes are collected by the county. And we no longer have a pound. The county board has taken over the maintenance of certain roads between towns known as county roads, and oversees local option elections, ridding the township of trash and zoning.

Biggest Little Town  
on Earth  
DeLand Centennial

1873 — 1973



A township record book dating September 8, 1868 through 1894 gives a running account of the activities of the township board. It lists the results of elections, goes into details in their troubles with railroad bonds levied to help build the railroad, the building and upkeep of the roads, taxes, the problems of poor relief (welfare is dispensed quite differently now), the animal pound, and sundry other matters.

Taxes were important in the early days just as they are now. The assessor assessed property in the early days though the list of taxable items has changed considerably through the years. The dog tax, which today is paid to the county treasurer was then collected locally but was used for the same purpose it is today, to recompense farmers for sheep, hogs, chickens and other livestock killed by packs of marauding dogs. Then, however, if the township had more dog tax money on hand than they needed, they used it for other purposes. At one time, they had a surplus of over \$300 which they used to pay off some of the coupons of the railroad bonds.

In those days, even the townspeople kept chickens, cows, pigs and other animals and allowed many of them to run at large. There were no automobiles to endanger the animals nor to be endangered. But they were a nuisance to the many people who raised gardens. In April 1869, an attempt was made to prohibit animals from running at large in the township but it failed. However, by 1894 it seemed necessary to do something about them especially in the village. A pound was established at the west end of the east half of lot twelve. (This was near the south end of what is now the park.) The poundmaster (who was elected), could charge \$1 per head for any horse, cow or ass he found running at large and 50c for any hog, sheep or goat. Later the fines were reduced to 50c and 25c. Ironically, the first animal impounded turned out to be the property of a prominent citizen who was also a town official!

Welfare was also the business of the supervisor through the county board. Some of the early supervisors tried hard not to have too many residents on relief. This wasn't too difficult, as it was considered a disgrace by most people to have to have help by the county or to go to the "Poor Farm." Folks, in those days were expected to work and most everyone preferred to make his own living. In Goose Creek, they succeeded very well. We know of one case where a family from another Piatt county community moved here, and was speedily moved back to their former home when the Goose Creek Supervisor discovered that they were habitually on relief!

The township board first met at Ashland schoolhouse two miles southwest of DeLand which was also used as a church

and as a voting place as well as a general meeting place for various groups. In 1877, the Bondurant school was moved into DeLand and the board met there. If it was inconvenient to meet at the schoolhouse, they met at such places as a general store or the depot. After the new schoolhouse was built in 1886, the school board decided to not allow the township board to meet in the new building. Thereupon, the township board decided to build a town hall, not to cost over \$55. However, Seth Langdon owned a small building that he had earlier built for a store and postoffice and he was willing to sell it for \$375. That included the building, shelving, counter, a large stove and pipes and half of lot 12 block 14. (This was the same lot on which they later built the pound and was located the third lot from the south end of what is now the park.) When the Catholic church was sold later, the board bought it and it became the town hall where we vote today. In the early 1900's, the original town hall was purchased by G.R. Trechard who moved it to the farm at the east end of 3rd street where it is now used as a scale house. The ceiling of the building was profusely decorated with a design and some of it still shows. While voting and the town meeting is still held at the town hall, the board now usually meets at the firehouse which is much more convenient.

#### A COMMUNITY OF FARMERS

Goose Creek started out as a farming community and remains so today. There are no mines (although at one time there was talk of starting a coal mine), no oil industry (although oil companies have drilled for oil on several farms and found none), and there have been few factories. Most of those have been farm related, as have many of the businesses in DeLand. Until recently, the village has been the home of many retired farmers, but lately it also has many families whose bread winner commutes to Champaign to his work.

Changes in the farming industry would probably make the eyes of the earliest settlers bulge could they see their farm land today. Their early attempts at making a living from the soil were made under extreme hardship. Since they thought the prairies not fit for cultivation, they had to clear the forest areas and that meant farming among stumps and on slopes. Their plowing was done by hand-plows or, at best, small walking plows pulled by horses or oxen. Harvesting was done by hand. The corn was cut and piled into a shock, being husked from the shock as needed and shelled in a small handmill. Wheat and oats were harvested by cutting with a scythe, stacked in shocks and threshed with a flail. All this is very primitive in our eyes, but it furnished the needs of food and perhaps a little surplus



for market. Mills for grinding grain were few and far between. It was a long trip to Decatur or Danville to grind grain or market it and sometimes the grain was taken in a wagon clear to Chicago. Ezra Marquiss told of taking a load of 22 bushels of wheat by horse and wagon to Chicago. It took him fourteen days and the wheat was sold for 40c a bushel! Cattle, ready for market, were driven to Chicago for sale.

As time went on, farming was expanded and processes changed and new farm implements were invented. It was a great day for the farmers when a new farm implement appeared on the market.

One of the first things the pioneer farmer had to do was to drain his land. Remember that the land here was a vast swamp in the rainy seasons. Someone invented a mole-like contraption with a cutting blade that went ahead of the mole which, when pulled through the ground made smooth packed runways for water. Thus they were able to drain the prairies and make good farm land out of them. These runways lasted for many years—in fact, a few have been found west of town during this century. In the 1880's, tile was invented and put in to replace the mole channels. Drainage ditches have been put in from time to time to help the creek carry away the water. There are several drainage districts in existence today which are supported by a small tax and makes it possible to keep the drainage of the township effective. In the 1880's there were 14 tile factories in Piatt County including one at the east edge of DeLand where there is now a dump yard.

Corn was still husked by hand until the 1930's. Farm wagons were fitted with "bump boards" making an extension to the height which kept the corn from going beyond the wagon when the worker, walking along the other side of the wagon pulled the ears of corn from the husk and the stalk and threw it into the wagon. The horses pulling the wagons walked along slowly without much attention from the husker. They seemed to know their job. Early each morning in the fall the air was filled with the sound of ears of corn hitting the bumpboards. The husker (or shucker, as he was commonly called) went out as soon as daylight came, shucked a load, came in and scooped it by hand into the crib, ate his dinner, rested a few moments and went out for a second load. In the shorter days of autumn and early winter, they were often unloading the second load after dark. It was slow and tedious work.

The farmer usually needed extra help at



husking time and each fall there was an influx of workers from southern Illinois and Kentucky to help with this work. They were paid so much per bushel for each bushel of corn husked and given room and board for the duration of their stay. This meant a lot of cooking for the farmer's wife, but that went with farm life. Some of the huskers were quite adept at husking and vied with one another over the number of bushels husked each day. This led to corn husking contests.

These contests began in the early 1920's, and were continued until sometime in the 1940's when the mechanical corn picker became the machine of the hour and "corn-shucking" became a thing of the past. Local men from each township were eligible to enter the county contest and the winner of that contest was eligible for the State event. Winner of the State contest went on to the National contest. The contests were moved to a different farm each year—one that had a good yield. It was held in Goose Creek Township a couple of time. Each husker was given a number of rows to husk in a limited amount of time. A gleaner went along behind, husking the corn missed by the contestant. When the time was up, the wagons were brought in and the loads weighed. Points were deducted for each pound of corn gleaned and the husks thrown into the wagon. A fast husker could still lose if too many points were taken off. The writer once attended one of these contests. It was as exciting to the onlookers as a basketball tournament!



Several local men were participants in these contests. Orville Welch, Wilson Webb, Drew Peacock, Paul Marquiss, Eugene Oakley, Leamon White, Virgil Harris, Paul White, Paul Manning, Robert Jones, Lewis Darsham and Ecus Vaughn who entered from a neighboring township but was well known here. The Goose Creek township men did well. Orville Welch won the county championship in six or seven of the ten or eleven times he entered, and in 1931 won both the State and National championship. Leamon White was also the winner one year and Ecus Vaughn won the State meet and came in third in the National. Gene Oakley was a winner in 1937 and Chas. Fleener of Hammond was a county winner several times. Early in the 1940's the Second World War helped the newly invented corn picker bring the husking contests to a close.

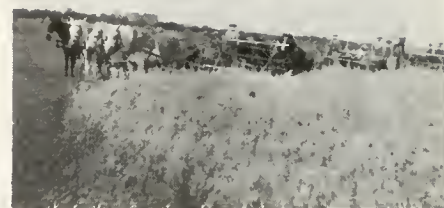
Today, even the corn picker is becoming obsolete. Most farmers now use a combine

— a machine that strips the ear from the stalk, shells the grain from the cob, delivering it into a bin or wagon while the ground up husks and cobs are dropped to the ground to be plowed under and added to the soil. From the field the shelled corn can be taken directly to the elevator where it is dried, stored, and eventually shipped when the price is right. The old customs of raking up the stalks and burning them in the fields before plowing, storing the corn in the crib, then shelling it out and burning the huge cob piles resulting, are eliminated. This has had an effect on the modern cob industry, since there are fewer cobs available. It also makes it fortunate that cobs are no longer used for fuel. Time was when every household filled a cob house each fall with cobs to use for fuel and for starting fires in coal stoves. Cobs were more plentiful then than wooden kindling. The passing away of the cob house eliminates one of the chores the boys of the family had that helped keep them busy and out of mischief!

The amount of corn produced has grown over the years and the length of time to harvest it has been greatly reduced. When the weather was bad, sometimes corn remained in the field until spring, but in 1971 over a million bushels were brought into the local elevators before November first.

Methods have also changed drastically in the production of other crops. Wheat and oats which at one time were harvested by cutting, stacking in shocks and threshing by steam powered threshing machines, are now harvested by combines. Like the corn harvest, the harvest is concluded in one operation. When threshing was the way, the community was divided into threshing rings with the thresher going from farm to farm. When the thresher pulled into a farm, it was accompanied by all the farmers in that ring along with their wives and children and a few visitors from town. The men worked in the field, the women slaved over the hot cook stove, and the kids had a good time, helping some but mostly getting in the way. A lavish dinner was served at noon, and fortunate were the guests who had come for a good dinner! The old saying that someone cooked enough for a threshing dinner was understood by anyone who ever ate such a meal.

The straw from the grain was made into a stack and used for feed and bedding for livestock. Sometimes it was baled (made into large square bundles and tied with baling twine) to be used in the winter time. The same thing was done to the clover and alfalfa hay raised for feed, although the hay was sometimes put into the hay mow of the barn, loose. Now, the farmer does not need so much hay and straw because he has stopped raising many livestock. Tractors have taken the place of horses, milk cows are now found



only on dairy farms, chickens are few. The farmers, like the townspeople, buy their poultry and eggs and meat from the supermarket. Farmers wives used to sell cream and eggs to the local store for pin money. I wonder what they do now! The riding horse is still popular and there are a few in the township. A few hogs and sheep are raised for market, and a few cattle are brought in and fattened for market. So farm life has indeed changed since Abraham Marquiss set foot in Goose Creek Township in 1833.

Not only are the farming methods different but the farmer is no longer considered a hick. He lives in a modern dwelling with electricity and running water and plumbing, has good cars, sends his children to a good consolidated school and farms more land. This results in fewer farmers and fewer farm hands.

Farmers have had their ups and downs over the years. Government farm programs and the farm bureau have helped them to improve methods. They get help from the University of Illinois with its agricultural research. Many farmers now are college graduates. And the Home extension sponsored by the university help the farmers wives. But in the 1930's, when the whole nation was in the throes of a terrible depression, many farmers suffered great losses. People who had been considered well to do became carried away with the good times and mortgaged their farms to buy more and higher priced land. When the depression struck, the price of farm land and farm products struck bottom. Many farmers went broke and had to sell their farms and implements and stock for practically nothing. This period was known as the era of the ten cent sale. It was a terrible time in our history. Many people were hungry. Many well-to-do people were for a time on relief. Those who survived the ordeal have come back with success. Farms are better cared for and the gently rolling prairies of Goose Creek township are a beautiful sight.





## FROM INDIAN TRAIL TO SUPERHIGHWAYS

Roads have been of great importance in the progress of our country. Early roads were not very good, and many of the early settlers followed only a trail made by the Indians or wild animals and sometimes they had to travel across the prairies. There were few or no bridges, so it was necessary to ford rivers and pick out their way as best they could. The counties, in those early days, could concern themselves only with the most important roads. The settlers had to build their own. They seemed to find the best ways to get from one place to another. The Indian and animal trails were seldom straight, so even today we find some country roads that are winding. There are some of these in Goose Creek township in the southeastern part where the first settlers lived. Even the road to Monticello has some curves left over from its early use. Later, when the county and township took over the task of putting in the roads and bridges, they followed section lines, giving us the checkerboard pattern we have today. (Since the distance from corner to corner is one mile, what will it be like, I wonder, when we change to the metric system? Will it be 1.6 plus kilometers from cross road to cross road? Or will they tear up all the roads and start over?)

According to an early map of Piatt county made in the 1860's after the township was formed, several of the roads we have today were in existence then. There were two that crossed the township from east to west — the road that is now route 10 and the road that passes the Gantz farm from west of Mrs. Huisinga's to Lodge. There were three north-south roads that went clear through the township — one on the west boundary, one on the east boundary and one a mile west of the latter. The road that we call the Farmer City Road was in, but ended at route 10. The road from Monticello began at the Duck farm, came west across the river past the McIntosh Mill, joined a road at the corner west of there that angled northwest as it does today as far as Morain cemetery. There it stopped. There was no official road laid out this side of the cemetery. However, a map of 1875 shows that a road began at the Ashland schoolhouse, angled southwest past what is now John Leischner's and joined the Monticello road at the cemetery. This was probably the road that Lincoln followed on his circuit of the county seats. His route was from Decatur to Clinton, to Monticello, to Urbana, to Danville. In 1924, Mr. William Lodge was instrumental in getting and having placed two Lincoln markers in Piatt County. One was in Goose Creek township at the corner west of Mrs. Huisinga's on the north east corner of the intersection, on the county line between Piatt and DeWitt. The other is on the road separating Piatt and Champagne counties north of route 10 in

Sangamon township. Each reads: "Abraham Lincoln passed this way as he rode the Eighth Judicial Circuit in the State of Illinois 1843-1859."



Lincoln Marker southwest of DeLand.

There was no official road out of DeLand to the south, but Mr. Clifford Porter said that there was a short-cut road that joined the road past Leischner's. Richard Tilson had a blacksmith shop on the Seth Langdon farm in what is now the Gantz timber. A trail (not a road) started at approximately what is now the southwest corner of our park, angled southwest to the creek and along the east side of the creek to the blacksmith shop where it could be forded. From there it followed along the west side of the creek until it joined the road before mentioned.

From the time the township was formed, roads have been and still are, one of the main businesses of the township board. Part of that business is to put in new roads if needed, and bridges over streams and to keep all of them usable. To facilitate the care of the roads, a road commissioner is elected to oversee them. At first, the township was divided into districts with a district overseer who was responsible to the commissioner in his area and saw to it that any bad conditions were improved. The road commissioner was responsible to the township board. Now, we have one commissioner who manages the road

building and upkeep in the entire township. This is because the commissioner has modern efficient machinery to work with.

Today, the entire township work is paid for by taxes and the work is done by men hired for the job by the commissioner. This was not always true. Each farmer was expected to care for the roads bordering his farm. After each rain, the farmer took his team and drag and pulled it over the road to eliminate the ruts when the ground had dried. If the farmer could not work his assigned road, he hired someone to do it. Any pay he received came from a poll tax — a tax on each male head of a household. This allowed everyone to help pay for the service he gained from good roads whether he had any along his farm or not. Anyone working out his road tax was allowed \$2.50 a day for man and team. During 1869, there were 279 work days put in for which the township paid. At that time, the township board anticipated spending \$500 for such improvements as bridges and levies. Even with all this work, the roads were often impassable, especially during fall and spring rainy periods, and a blizzard kept everyone at home for days.

Sometimes the building of new roads was opposed by people along the proposed route, especially those who had to give up some of their land for it. In that case, a road trial was held. One trial for which we have an account was the three-quarter mile stretch running south of DeLand, which today is paved. From the county paper comes this story:

"Quite an interesting and important road trial commenced last Saturday at DeLand before Squire M.N. Secrist. It seems that the people of DeLand have no other communication with the outside world by wagon roads other than that furnished by a road coming into the place from the north. They have been endeavoring to remedy this for a long time as they have felt that the business of the town depends upon other outlets.

"Of those favoring a new road, T.E. Bondurant is one of the strongest supporters. He has a large property interest in DeLand whose value depends much upon the village's growth. He and its people have desired to open a road from that place which would intersect a section line road one mile south of the railroad. On the other hand and opposing the road is Mr. Ezra Marquiss and other large landholders. As it is proposed to run the road, his tract of 280 acres south of town will be cut into two separate pieces—one of forty acres and one of 240 acres. On the smaller tract is a pond of water used for watering the stock pastured on the larger tract. Mr. Marquiss claimed that by cutting off this main body of land from the pond of water, he will suffer serious damage and he asks compensation therefore. He averred that it is difficult, if not impossible, to obtain water on his main tract. He therefore



claims damage to the amount of \$1700.

"Most of the prominent stockmen of the county were subpoenaed by the trial. Their testimony as to the cost of fencing was nearly the same. As to the damage, some placed it at \$300 and others placed it as high as \$3,000. The practicability of building a passageway under the road was even considered. Opinions differed.

"A jury of eighteen men sat at the trial — six each from Goose Creek township, Sangamon and Blue Ridge. Mr. Piper represented Mr. Marquiss, and Mr. Emerson of the firm of Hamilton and Emerson, represented Mr. Bondurant. The trial lasted through Saturday and Monday. After being out for about an hour on Monday night, the jury rendered a verdict in favor of Mr. Marquiss for \$600. At this figure, the Commissioner of Highways of Goose Creek township will proceed to lay out the road."

This road trial was in 1876. Later, date unknown, the road was extended to the road that went past Leischners and joined the Monticello road at Morain cemetery as it is today.

A few other road trials are mentioned in the papers and records but it is difficult to pinpoint their locations. The record was likely to report that a road was put in from So and So's house to a certain place. Unless you know where So and So lived, one guess is as good as another!

In December of 1902, the paper recorded the plans to build a new road as a continuation of South 3rd street. (This is the road past the old Township High School ending at Miss Gertie Swisher's.

"The new road which is to be an inlet into DeLand for the people west of the village is now a certainty. The road was divided equally between the village and the township. Each is to build one bridge and do half the grading for the road. Much of the labor is to be donated. Seymour Marquiss (son of Ezra) has donated the piling for the village bridge but the village workers are to cut down the trees and get them to the site. This road will be of convenience not only to the farmers who now have a round-a-bout way to come here, but to DeLand citizens as well."

Before 1914, the roads were dusty in summer, muddy in spring and fall, and full of ruts in winter. When the ground began freezing, farmers jacked up their automobiles in the runway of the corncrib or barn, and got out the horse and buggy for the winter. But in 1914 the first attempt to improve the roads occurred. Having heard that oil made good roads, Goose Creek ordered some and spread it on. It worked pretty well, although the freezing and thawing of winter and the spring rains combined to cause them to break up in the spring. But most cars could get around on them and the oiling continued until the late thirties.

By 1938, there was some talk of bringing some of the rural school children into town but the roads made this a problem. Goose

Creek township was ready for better roads. After talking for nearly a year, petitions were circulated and 125 people signed. A special election was held with the gravel vote carrying and a bond issue of \$100,000 was sold immediately. The Rowe construction company of Bloomington was the low bidder for processing and the John McElroy Co. of Decatur for the hauling and spreading. A roadbed had to be made with proper drainage, gravel tested for the right kind. This was found at Mahomet and Lane. It took 48,000 square yards of gravel to cover the roads eight feet wide. Total miles covered was 61 and six trucks were used in hauling. The job was completed in January of 1939. The roads held up very well and made it possible to consolidate the country schools in 1945. By 1950, they needed much work done on them and again the people of the township recognized the need and voted for bonds to pay for a new coat of gravel. In 1961 a new road tax was approved. Since that time, oil topped with crushed rock or gravel has been used over the gravel bed and a certain number of miles are renewed each year. The result is that we have good all weather roads.

#### STATE ROADS IN THE TOWNSHIP

There are three stretches of concrete pavement in Goose Creek township. One is route 10 which crosses the township at the north edge of DeLand. The other two are at the southern and northern ends of town—toward Monticello and Farmer City. They are joined by a pavement through the village.

The agitation for pavements began about 1917. Hard roads were being put in other nearby areas and the fever for good roads began to reach here. In January of 1917 a petition was circulated asking for three miles of State Aid road. People subscribed various amounts to help the cause along. It was first planned to put the road from the north end of Highway avenue towards Farmer City. G.R. Trenchard was appointed Superintendent of the project. He suggested that the road be divided into two stretches—one north and one south of the village. Since the mileage had been set at 1½ miles, each stretch would be ¾ of a mile long. The worth of different materials was debated. Since concrete roads had not yet proved their worth, bricks won. W.F. Lodge of Monticello had the lowest bid. He did not consider concrete first grade material and when the village board talked of putting in a connecting pavement, he tried to persuade them not to use it. By September 1919 the grading on the south stretch was ready for the eighteen carloads of brick that had arrived. By December 12, 1919 the south road was open to the public though the grading was not finished. Work on the

north road was suspended until spring. The finished roads were ten feet wide. The rest of the road was oiled.

These roads were used until the 1950's. They had not been extended to Farmer City or Monticello as the citizens had hoped. By this time, they had deteriorated greatly. The County, by the use of State Aid, decided to replace them. The work started in the summer of 1956. It was slow work. The company that put them in had several other jobs and alternated the work. They worked all night several nights on the south stretch to finish up the job before freezing set in. This was at the end of November 1956. The north stretch was finished the next spring.

The new pavements are of concrete and are of double width. The concrete was laid over the brick. It is maintained by the county.

#### ROUTE 10

In the late twenties, the people of this area began rooting for a hardroad that would connect DeLand with neighboring cities such as Champaign, Clinton and Decatur. As early as 1923, when a road between Chicago, Kankakee and Decatur was proposed, some of the men from here attended a meeting at Clinton at which was formed the Central Hard Road Association. These people endorsed a road from Kankakee to Farmer City, to Clinton, to Lincoln on to Mason City, Havana and Lewiston. They also endorsed one beginning at White Heath or Seymour to run through Lodge, DeLand, Weldon and Lane to Clinton. Hard road delegates from several counties, including Piatt, met at Springfield regarding the proposed routes. Governor Small expressed himself as favorable to them. In April, a bond issue was voted on and as a result, DeLand was near two routes. Route 48 was to go through Weldon from Farmer City, and route 120 was to go along the north edge of DeLand.

The building of roads by the state is a slow process. In this case, surveying did not start until late in 1929, when they began on the strip from Seymour to Clinton. (The route from Champaign to Seymour and thence to Monticello, Bement and Decatur was then numbered 10 and the spur that joined route 10 at Seymour to pass through DeLand was numbered 120.) Property was secured for the right of way of 80 feet. The road, as originally planned would have bypassed Lodge and gone closer to Galesville, but the routing was changed to cross the Wabash at Lodge and came closer to White Heath than to Centerville. The road made a sweeping curve two miles east of DeLand. East of Lodge, a spur ran south across the river joining route 10 to Monticello. This spur was built by the county.

By January 1931, the state had secured the necessary right-of-way and hoped to get all the court action over in time to let the contracts. This was accomplished in



February and included the strip from Weldon to DeLand and on east for 3.07 miles. The cost from DeLand to Weldon was \$103,856.12. Work began in May with grading, bridges and culverts being placed. The stretch from DeLand to Weldon at route 48 was opened to travel by September. DeLand could now go on pavement to several places although it was a round-about way. In August there had been a wage dispute but it was settled in time to start work on the east section in September. An effort was to be made to finish the work before cold weather set in. It was not finished until sometime in 1932. A little trouble arose sometime during this period over the hiring of ten negro laborers. People here felt that local men out of work should have been hired.

During 1932, route 120 was opened all the way from route 10 west of Seymour to Clinton, and route 48 was finished. Later, the route from Champaign to the western Illinois line was renumbered 10, as it is today, and the route from where the road to Mahomet joined 10 through Monticello was renumbered 47.

So the roads have changed. Lincoln would have a much shorter journey if he were to travel today through Goose Creek township.

#### RURAL SCHOOLS OF GOOSE CREEK TOWNSHIP

When the rural schools were consolidated in 1945 with the DeLand district, there were 13 school districts in the township, most of them in session. Rural schools were established very early in Goose Creek township. The Ordinance of 1787 made provision for the establishment of schools and as the states were formed, they strengthened the means of establishment. The value of one section in each township was set aside for school purposes. When a school was established on a piece of property, the owner often donated the piece of land. If the school was abandoned the land usually went back to the original owner.

The first school houses were built of logs. According to school notes in the 1880's, in 1840 there were only one or two frame buildings in the county. Slabs were used for seats and desks, greased paper covered the windows and heat came from a fireplace.

The first schoolhouse in Goose Creek Township was the Piatt school in the southeast corner of the township. It was called Piatt because it stood on land belonging to William Piatt. The original log school was replaced by a frame building which burned in the early 1900's. The building that replaced the burned building was a two room building. The extra room was used for furnace, fuel, storage and play area. The Piatt district did not close its school until after most of the township schools had consolidated. And being closer to Monticello than to

DeLand, they petitioned out of the DeLand school district and sent their children to Monticello.

This early schoolhouse was used for religious services as well as a schoolhouse. They regularly held Sunday school but depended upon itinerate preachers for their church services. A cemetery was established in the school yard where many of the pioneer families are buried. The cemetery still exists and is cared for by the township. It has the distinction of being the burial place of Captain and Mrs. Olney. Mr. Olney was the Revolutionary veteran mentioned earlier. The couple were first buried at Hickory point (they died here) but the remains were later disinterred by a grandson and placed in Piatt cemetery. The younger Olneys remained here unto 1883.

The first teacher at Piatt school was William Patterson. Among the early teachers mentioned were Emma Marquiss, Jennie Hickman and Jessie Holmes; the last, Mary Schultz.

The early school districts were larger than they were later. They contained about eight sections. Families were larger then, and the children continued in school to a later age. It took longer to get through the elementary school then because the terms were shorter. They usually had two or three terms, coinciding with the farming seasons. When farming was at its high points, the older children stayed home and helped. This resulted in a large turnover of teachers for they were hired from term to term. As time went on, each district was divided into two districts making it necessary for children to walk so far. And walk they did. Only in the severest weather were children taken to school by their parents. Their noon lunch was carried with them in a bucket no hot lunches in the early days! Sometimes the food was frozen before they got there. And their toes too! Education was gained in a hard way.

The second school in the township was the Morain school. It too, originally, was a log building. It, too, was used for church services and also for social events and for a voting place. It also had a cemetery which still exists and which is cared for by the township. You pass it on the country road to Monticello. The original school house and the one following it, stood between the cemetery and the creek. Former pupils remember of being able to swing across the creek on wild grapevines that were in the trees along the creek bank. Piatt had been divided into Piatt and Harmony date unknown. Morain was divided into Morain and Pleasant Falls districts. The Pleasant Falls school site was much closer to the Morain schoolhouse than was desirable so the Morain school was moved west and south to a point just north of W.W. Welch's farm. Whether the building was moved or torn down and rebuilt on the new site is not

clear. Items in the newspaper indicated that they might have built a new building. To quote

"Morain will use the old schoolhouse another year on its present site."

The Morain school house is now a shed on the Welch farm.

Early teachers at Morain were Wiley Dewees and Anna Schultz; the last Edna Williams.

Ashland school two miles southwest of DeLand was also a school which was used for church services. The Methodist Episcopal congregation who later built a church in DeLand, was organized there about 1870. It was also used for social activities and as a voting place. The township board held meetings there. And there is mention of an organization of farmers meeting there. I believe that this district had only the one building. Ashland school closed its doors sometime before consolidation as its pupils dwindled in numbers. Lola Huisinga Reed was the teacher at the time of closing - 1936.

Kentuck school resulted early from division of the Ashland District. The date is unknown. It may have even preceded Ashland. I have always thought that the old Kentuck church built on the Meents farm and the early school were in the same building but on an 1875 map, Kentuck school is shown east of the Meents farm and on the north side of the road on the line that separates Goose Creek from Willow Branch, Kentuck was a German neighborhood and some of the people settled there in the 1850's. They built a new school in 1902 just north of where Gregorys now live. It was a large school sometimes having more than fifty pupils. When this building had a fire and had to be replaced, a modern brick building was built. It had a basement and a furnace, and when rural electrification came this way, Kentuck school was wired. The neighborhood had a community club for many years and when the building was sold following consolidation, the community club leased it for twenty years. It was used a great deal for various gatherings and on one or two occasions when a home was needed for a short while, it was rented. By the time the twenty years was up, most of the original families were gone and interest had dwindled. Later, it was sold, reverted to the farm from which it had come and the building was torn down. Early teachers were Albert Young, and Laura Ashton. The last teacher was Lucinda Albert.

Not much date is available about Enterprise which stood two miles west of Kentuck across the road from a country church of the same name. It, too, was consolidated in 1945 - some of the pupils going to Weldon, some to DeLand and some to Cisco. Most of those nine sections there are now in the Monticello district since Monticello took in the Cisco district. However, some of the pupils go to DeLand-Weldon. The last teacher at Enterprise



was Lola Huising (Reed). Three Kingston men — father, son and grandson served as directors. Early teachers were: Joseph Covington, Frank Seager.



Rural school. Prospect — new and old buildings.

Prospect, two miles beyond Enterprise, was situated on the county line — now route 48. It had two buildings. Its second building was built in 1911. While they were building it, they moved the old building to the back of the school yard and continued to use it. The new building was frame but had a basement and was as modern as they could make it at that time. Last teacher was Lois Ward.

Piatt, Morain, Kentuck, Enterprise and Prospect were all in the southern tier of sections in the township. Ashland, Pleasant Falls and Harmony were two miles north of these. The original building at Pleasant Falls, was built in 1883 and lasted until 1910 when it burned. It was built upon what was then the Teter farm — later owned by the Trimby's and Harm Huisinga, the popcorn King. The new building was finished in 1912. The district sold bonds to pay for it. It was a frame building like Prospect with basement and furnace and a library room. In 1945, it was sold to Mr. Huisinga who used it for the storage of popcorn. Recently, it has been torn down. Edith Hubbard and Dora Watson were early teachers. Lola Reed Huisinga was the last teacher here, too! Nelda Olson taught this school for seven years.

Harmony was struck off from Piatt early but the date is unknown. To our knowledge, there was only the one building. It stood across from the Kirkland place on the west side of a drainage ditch and had to have a bridge to get to it. After consolidation, it was sold to Florence Kirkland and is on her place being used for an implement building. Early teachers were Clarence Arndt and Chas. Campbell. The last teacher was Ruth Waller. Emerson Evans taught this school for 8 years and Irlene Ammann (Honselman), six.

Fairview school, two miles north of Harmony, had the record for long time teachers. Ethel Dalton taught there for thirteen years. Fairview, which stands today just off route 10, was originally

located just north of the tracks at Combes Switch. This is the only Goose Creek Township school today not sold nor abandoned. It looks rather sad sitting there in the grove of trees with the weeds high around it. It rather makes one remember the old poem that begins

"Still sits the schoolhouse by the road, A ragged beggar sunning.

Around it still the sumach grows And bumble bees are humming."

Early teachers at Fairview were Jacob Keller and Fannie Trenchard.

Two miles north of Fairview was Warner. It was sold to Howard Gantz and stands on the same site but is used for storage. Warner was the last rural school district to be formed in Piatt County. It was formed about 1909 according to a date on it, and was numbered 107. (The other schools in the township were numbered from 55 through 62 except for Enterprise and Prospect which were numbered 90 and 91.) The earliest teacher of Warner we know about was Elsie Lanier and the last — Lulu Keller.

Mt. Vernon — north of DeLand had only one building to my knowledge. When sold, it was first moved to the Hursh farm where Persons lived, and later it was torn down. An early teacher was Lida Linton (Mrs. E.T. McMillen). The last teacher was Geneva Walker. Mr. Vernon had a couple of newsworthy items in the paper. A fire started one night but fortunately burned itself out after burning a large hole in the floor. And one morning, they found a dead man in the schoolhouse! He had evidently sought shelter there.

Wisegarver school had two buildings. Mr. John Mansfield told of attending school there in the sixty's with around sixty other pupils. According to Mrs. Hattie Dewey Covey, who went to school

there, the second building was built in 1893. E.A. Dewey, Otis Vittum and Jacob Mansfield were the directors at the time. Mrs. Edd Andrews of Monticello was the first teacher. The old building was sold and moved away. The new building was built because the first one was too small. The new building was later remodeled. Chas. Gilmore was one of the directors who supervised the remodeling. An indoor coal room, a library, an entrance hall and two chemical toilets were added. However, the chemical toilets were not satisfactory and they went back to the little white houses at the far end of the school yard. Almost all country schools habitually had last day dinners when the entire district gathered for a picnic and a good time. Sometimes a program was given and always the men and boys had a ball game. Wisegarver had an extra special one on its last closing day. Many of the former pupils were present and much time was spent at reminiscing. The children gave a program and a neighboring school came by and a spelling bee was held. The last teacher was Grace Paugh.

We have left Western until last because it was at first part of the DeLand School district. The district was numbered No. 5. The pupils were first served by the Bondurant School which stood across from the cemetery on Bondurant land. It was built in 1870. In 1877, the school board moved the Bondurant School into town. At the same time they built a second school west of town and called it West DeLand. Later, the district was divided into two districts and West DeLand became Western. Now Western as the people living today knew it, stood on the Northeast corner of the intersection at Mrs. Ammann's corner. But earlier settlers say that West DeLand stood very close to a Hackberry tree that



Western School pupils — Cecile Long, teacher.



stood at the end of what is now Trimble's lane. Thus it became known as the "Hackberry School." Later, it was moved to the corner. Now the school board in their minutes planned to build it where the lands of Jacob Mansfield, Regnold and Dellemers joined. This was the corner at Ammann's. The building was built on Bondurant land, as Bondurant owned both the site proposed and the site at the hackberry tree. Why they built it first at the latter place is not known. The Western school was closed in 1938 for lack of pupils. It stood there for several years before being razed. The Ammann family lived in it for awhile when they were building their new house after the old one burned. Carol Watson was the last teacher.

The Bondurant School was moved to town and became the DeLand School.

Piatt County had good rural schools and that included those in Goose Creek Township. A rural school today fills the older people with nostalgia and the younger ones with disbelief that a school could be held in such a place. Anyone who has not either attended or taught a country school simply does not know what he has missed! Most of the village teachers in those days had begun teaching in a country school. It was an excellent way to gain experience. To begin with, it developed independence and initiative. A teacher was practically on his own except for what guidance the county school superintendent could give him. With Charles McIntosh as superintendent, that was quite a bit, but you had to handle emergency yourselves. There was lots to do. You went early, built a fire in the furnace, and while the room heated, you swept the floor to keep warm. You carried in cobs and coal, cleaned the blackboard, dusted the furniture. Housekeeping chores done, you turned your attention to the lessons for the day. In the meantime half the pupils had arrived. Children got up early on the farm and many came to school without consulting a clock to see whether it was time to go. At 9 a.m. you began to conduct classes. Classes were many and you had only a few minutes for each one. The number of classes were reduced by alternating some each year. One year you taught 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 7th and the next year 1st, 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th. Arithmetic in the first six grades was never alternated nor grammar in the 7th and 8th. At noon you played with the children or carried in more coal. At night, you carried in more coal and cobs to be ready for the morning.

One of the reasons the schools were good were because attention was paid to the health and comfort of the children by becoming "Standard" schools. The state had set up certain standards for the school and most of the boards of county schools complied by remodeling. This included such things as moving all the windows so that their was no cross light and so that the light came from the left; an extra door at the opposite end of the building for use in

case of fire; a jacketed furnace that circulated fresh air from an outside vent; a wall of concrete to a certain depth so that ground water did not seep in the well. These and other things plus a good teacher made it possible for rural children to get a good education. But when pupils became few, the cost per child went up and consolidation with the town school was the result. The country school is a thing of the past except in the memories of those who attended and taught them. The children may get a better education today, but to quote Mrs. Covey in her letter to Wisegarver school on the last day, "I am sure the pupils will never be any happier than I was, for I thoroughly enjoyed my school days."

(NOTE ——— To show how things have changed and people moved in and out — The writer taught five of the township schools between 1916 and 1945 for a total of ten years and some 75 or 80 pupils. Of those pupils, only five remain in the township today! and only one still lives in the same house and the same district).

A few of the former township teachers who lived in the township then and still live here are: Anora Lubbers Smith, Roberta Lubbers Kidd, Lola Huisinga Reed, Zelda Marvel, Geneva Walker, Geneva Goken Huisinga, Helen Crosby Foltz, Marjorie Roos Huisinga, Roberta Nodacker Persons, Grace Paugh. A few former local people who taught in the township were five Grethe girls — Antonia, Augusta, Jeanetta, Ottoline and Lenora, Myrta Conner, Irlene Ammann Honselman, Cecile Long Dial, Bernice Swartz, Gladys Dresback Gibson, Sebern and Marjorie Leischner, Ted Holforthy, Alice Marvel, Alice Paugh Wrench, Gladys Souders Remmers, Wayne McMillen, Darlene Leischner Thompson, Sarah Haggard Bainum, Mary Schultz, Pearl Barnes, Ruby Parnes, Eva Barnes, Mary Ellen Wisegarver, Edna Hiett, Rebecca and Grace Gray, Laura and Gladys Dubson, Olive and Clara Anderson, Lois Haggard, Doris White, Ethel Dalton, Thelma Gilmore, E.E. and Lysta Garver, Faye Adams, Geneva McMillen Huisinga, Nelda Olson, Myrtle Ferry, Faith Hubbard Mintun, Anne Huisinga, Myrtle Griffith, Moneta Trovelsoper, and Iva Harlow Coffin.

#### GOOSE CREEK TOWNSHIP GETS A RAILROAD

It was in 1872 that a promised railroad was completed across Goose Creek Township from east to west. It extended from Champaign to White Heath where it connected up with the Monticello Railroad. It continued from White Heath to Lodge, crossing the Goose Creek—Sangamon line about the middle, and continued to DeLand and on to Weldon, Lane and Clinton and eventually to Havana. Actually, it touched none of these towns because they were not

there but very soon, most of them had been founded and were using the railroad. It was intended originally to continue on across the Mississippi to Iowa but it fell short of its intended destination.

The section of the road through DeLand was chartered in 1867 as the Havana, Mason City, Lincoln, and Eastern railway. Shortly thereafter, it was consolidated with the Monticello railroad and then both were transferred to the Indianapolis, Bloomington, and Western Road which already had a line across the northern part of Piatt County. All of these railroads suffered financial trouble and a foreclosure was held which resulted in the line through DeLand becoming known as the Champaign, Havana and Western Road. But again it was consolidated — this time with the Wabash System and remained so until 1886 when it was sold to the Illinois Central and remains that today.

To help build the railroads, the various townships sold bonds to raise the necessary money for the iron work — rails, ties, etc. In 1866 and 1867, the township board sold bonds amounting to \$20,000 and the first were paid off on the due date along with the interest. Those who opposed the transaction claimed that the petitions and notices were not proper, that the election was not conducted properly, that the amount of the appropriations was not put on the ballot, and that the company made undue haste to sell the bonds after they were issued. They also wanted the railway built within three years. The records show that in 1869 the township levied a special tax to pay interest on the bonds. On March 3rd of that year part of the bonds were returned marked paid and were burned as is the custom. . . . From then on, it became a struggle to even pay the interest.

In 1871, Thomas Bondurant, Supervisor, applied for an injunction restraining the levying of taxes to pay the interest, and holders of the bonds were beginning to bring suit in the United States Court. On May 19, 1875, the county correspondent urged the township to pay off the bonds and save their credit.

"Individually," asserted the correspondent, "We believe the people of Goose Creek Township stands high in regard to commercial honor, but collectively, if they refuse to act about these bonds, they would stand very low. There is not a county in the state where the credit of its individuals is higher than in Piatt County and we should be sorry to see it marred by such records as is being made by one or two of its townships."

More bonds were voted in 1876 — these, to fund the out-standing bonds which had become due and could not be paid. The township had fought the bonds and now because of accrued interest had reached \$50,000. The debt subsequently rose to \$54,000. In the late 1880's the officials of the township began to make a concerted effort to pay off the debt. The debt went down a little each year, and in 1913, the township



was at last clear of debt. However in 1915, a pleasant event occurred. The township received a bill for taxes! The following is the account in the newspaper:

"Last spring a letter from McCoy and Co. of Chicago sent to the county clerk at Monticello made inquiries as to why the tax had not been paid on the railroad bonds that had been hanging over Goose Creek Township for something like 40 years. The letter was referred to Supervisor G.R. Trenchard, who at once began to investigate. He knew that the final bond principal and the interest had been paid in 1913. He started immediately to get the account straightened out. In looking over the county treasurer's books, he discovered that the township had overpaid. After several trips to the county seat and to Springfield, and going over the books with various authorities, he was paid \$1075.30 that was due Goose Creek township. The state treasurer told Mr. Trenchard that there were many similar cases and over a million dollars in the state treasury that should be returned to the townships. Had not the letter of inquiry been sent, no one would have ever known that the township had over paid!

The railroad was finally begun. Some of the farmers along the desired right-of-way objected to parting with their land. John Cyphers, especially, balked. Mr. Bondurant speedily solved the problem. He offered to trade some land just east of what is now his town property to Mr. Cyphers for his piece along the proposed right of way. Mr. Cyphers accepted the offer. Mr. Bondurant then gave the piece of land to the railroad and work proceeded.

Mr. James DeLand, a member of the pioneer family named DeLand at White Heath, took the contract for building the section through Goose Creek Township. Much of the work was done by local people—especially by the nearby farmers. J.E. Reed says that his great-great grandfather, Amos Reed, was one who helped with the building. And so the railroad went through and was finished during the late summer or early fall of 1872. It proved to be a momentous occasion for the township's citizens for it gave them an outlet for shipping their produce.

A station was built about the middle of the township and was named DeLand Station, undoubtedly for James DeLand. The building of the station probably influenced Thomas Bondurant in his choice of a site for his town and the eventual naming of the village. Small towns sprung up along the railroad including White Heath and Weldon in the fall of 1872 and DeLand in the spring of 1873. Lodge, which began a half mile south of its present site, was moved to the railroad crossing in 1881, and renamed Woods for a railway official. But the post office department refused to recognize the new name and the town was continued to be called Lodge.

White Heath was named for two pioneer families, the Whites and the Heath's and

Weldon for a railroad official.

For many, many years, the railroad through DeLand ran four passenger trains a day, and for a few years six. The early morning train arrived from Champaign about seven o'clock and returned in the evening from Havana about six. The midmorning train from Clinton came in around 10:30 or 11 and returned from Champaign about one. It made connections with a train from Decatur at White Heath (There was noway to turn the Decatur train around so it backed up all the way to Decatur!) One could go to Monticello but not back until the next day. It also made connection with the Interurban at White Heath which ran a car from Champaign to Decatur about every hour. There was a freight train each way each day on the line through DeLand and these still run but not as regularly as they once did.

Meeting the train in the early days was great fun. About 10 or 15 minutes before train time, you could see many citizens winding their way toward the depot. There they visited with one another, exchanged the latest gossip and joked and laughed until the train came in. They were there to greet friends returning, to wave them off or simply to see who got on and off! There was always a representative of the press on hand and the paper always had long columns of locals. And most of the young people of the town were among the observers. It was a good way to get together.

There were other times when the crowds collected at the depot. If one went on a long journey, his friends and relatives all assembled to wave him off and bid him Godspeed. During World War I, the local band and most of the citizens sped the soldiers on their way. In the summer time, there were excursion rates and special trains to the Chatauqua at Weldon Springs, to the State Fair at Springfield, to wherever a circus was playing, and to towns where a well known political figure was speaking.

Oftentimes, the agent advertised the fact that a special was coming through. The writer remembers once when a political train came through. Teddy Roosevelt, the Bull Moose candidate for president was rumored to be on it. Practically the entire populace assembled, hoping that the train would stop or that Teddy would at least be on the back platform. The train, however, whizzed through without a sign of slowing, and there was no sign of Teddy. Only two men standing on the back platform. What a letdown! We never even found out whether Teddy was on the train. It is doubtful if he was as there was only the one coach.

This all ended in 1930 and 1931 when the officials first took off two trains and then the other two. The automobile had arrived and keeping the trains running was not profitable. The freight service continued

but was limited to large items and the express service limited to a few stations. For awhile express was brought in by truck, but even that is no more. The freights carry such things as grain, cobs, fertilizer, gravel, lumber and oil. Since almost everyone uses gas or oil for heating, even coal shipments are few. Livestock and some grain is transported by truck. If something shipped to you is too large for the mails, you pick it up at Monticello.

For awhile after the passenger trains were removed, you could travel in the caboose of the freight, but you had to be a hardy soul to do it. In addition to being a very slow way to travel (the freight stopped and switched at every siding), the road bed was rough, the seats uncomfortable (they just couldn't have had any springs) and you were pretty well shook up by the end of your journey. After awhile, that service was dispensed with.

The original depot stood on the west side of Main street. It was moved about 1903 to the east side where the present one stands. This must have been about the time the I.C. Local was wrecked east of DeLand by spreading rails. One box car and the caboose were thrown off the track and ties and rails torn up. The few passengers were not injured and rode into DeLand on the engine. The superintendent of bridges and buildings came out from Clinton on the wrecker. He looked the depot over, since there had been requests for a new depot or at least some improvements. To quote him

"If some of the high officials would happen to get stranded here and were forced to wait for hours in the little old dry goods box that serves as a depot, they would come to the realization that a new depot is badly needed here."

Someone suggested that it would be a good place for some of the railroad's surplus money! However, it took a fire to get a new depot although some repairs and improvements were forthcoming. The building burned when the lumberyard burned. Between that time and the building of the second building, a box car was set up on the west side of the street and fitted up as a depot.

Agents at the depot came and went. Luther Cox was there for a long time. But the man who stayed the longest was J.M. Pitts, who worked for the Illinois Central for 50 years and spent 25 of it in DeLand. He was born in 1871 at Gifford, Illinois, studying telegraphy at Richview and Villa Grove. His first appointment was April 1, 1884 at Laurette. He also served at Buffalo and Chestnut for three years, Gifford 11 years, and Mt. Pulaski from June to October 1912 when he came to DeLand. In 1944 he ended fifty years of service and received a gold pass from the Illinois Central. He had two children—Ray, who works for the I.C. and Helen, who married Will Cathcart. Both of the latter are dead. Mr. Pitts was interested in the community

while here. He served on the official board and was treasurer at the Christian church. His garden was his hobby.

A few of the other agents included: J.H. Lane, H.W. Ward, Frank Timmons, Watrous, Ruth Detar, and Harris.

At one time there were coal bins along the tracks and a stock yard at the east end. Nearly all the coal bins have been torn down because little coal is now used here. There are still one or two dilapidated ones at the west end. The bins were originally built of wood. Later some of them were replaced with concrete. The stock yards were sold in 1939 because of lack of use as stock is shipped entirely now by truck. Elmer West bought them for the lumber.

There have been several accidents at the railroad crossings but none serious so far as life and limb were concerned but one. And that was not an auto accident. In 1898 Lewellyn Notter of Covington, Indiana was run over near Illinois Avenue crossing. He had walked here from Lodge and then tried to board a box car and fell beneath the wheels. The trucks passed over his legs just above the ankle and his legs had to be amputated. He died a few hours later. Reverend Brittin saw the accident from the parsonage window and summoned help. (The Methodist Parsonage was then the house in which Ronald Fisher now

lives). Mr. Notter had an IOOF membership card from Gallipolis, Ohio in his pocket, and the DeLand Lodge did what they could for him.

On two occasions there was talk of another railroad. In May of 1903, plans were materializing rapidly for the P.D.&M. (Pontiac, DeLand, and Mattoon) railway. Subscriptions for stock were being solicited and everyone was enthusiastic. This electric railway was not to run parallel to another railroad as electric lines usually did. Each up-to-date farmer could have a spur from the main line to his farm where he could load his grain at once and have it carried to the elevator cheaper than by trading work with his neighbor and having to run into bad weather. Hon. J.N. Rodman and J.B. Rinehart were representing DeLand.

A writer to the Tribune talked up the idea of co-operation in the town and suggested that more of the business men be induced to join in the movement for the new railroad. Even if the railroad fell through, there would be other things they could do for the town. The railroad fell through.

At another time, it was thought possible to get an extension of the Illinois Traction System from White Heath through DeLand, but that, too, failed to

materialize.

For quite a long while there was a bus line through DeLand. First it came down into the village. Then it stopped only at the top of the hill. The patronage was very poor. By this time, most people had cars and they used them instead of the bus. It was finally given up and DeLand has since been without public transportation. Which is bad for a few people.

Two other interesting items from the newspaper.

"1914 -- The I.C. ignored the recent village ordinance which forbade shipment of liquor into the town. The I.C. declared the ordinance illegal. (Up to the repeal of the 18th amendment, DeLand never had a saloon. The town as a whole was against any liquor being brought in.)

"April 12, 1900 -- Farmers living between DeLand and Weldon sent a petition with 200 names to the Illinois Central asking the company to put in a switch between the two towns where an elevator could be built like the one at Combes' Switch. It was considered for a while and the owner of the Moore land would have made the land available, but for some reason, the project did not materialize.



Threshing Party Gang — Taken at Home of James Moody (Now home of Wendell McBride).



## LITTLE TOWNS

Though I've lived in many places, It always seemed to me  
That little towns are special, The nicest place to be.  
I like the lawns and gardens, the wide expanse of sky,  
Much better than the city streets, Where buildings tower high.

The little towns are friendly When one is passing through.  
They always look so pleasant And quite contented, too.  
The homes are unpretentious, Just homey, Cozy places  
Where people are good neighbors with dear familiar faces.

One is known by dogs and children wherever they may walk,  
And neighbors come for coffee And a little kitchen talk.

People sitting on their porches Will wave a hand and smile,  
And one is more than welcome to join them for awhile.

Folks get to know each other, Calling most of them by name;  
And in the stores and churches, It also is the same.  
The shopping's never boring! Instead it is a treat,  
A chance for friendly chatter With others one may meet.

At night the lighted windows Produce a friendly glow,  
And often sounds of music Still follow where you go.  
The homes are kept up nicely, Revealing family pride,  
It's nice to see them working, Together there outside.

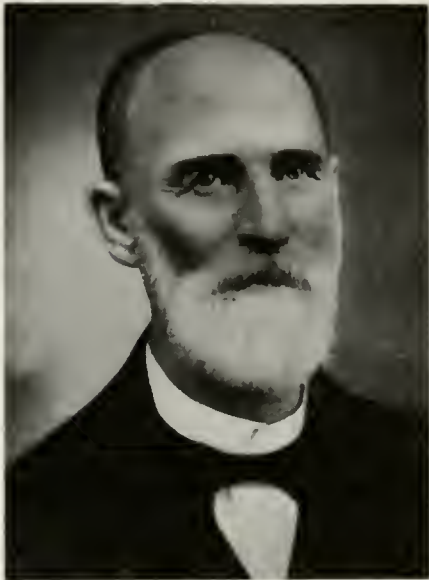
The streets are nicely shaded; You never seek in vain;  
The most important thoroughfare Is nearly always "Main".  
Of course there's less excitement But also little crime.  
Cities are many people's choice but a little town is mine.

Used by permission of author  
Harriet Whipple in Neighborly Ideals.



## BIGGEST LITTLE TOWN

It was at the location of the DeLand Station, designated so by the railroad, that Thomas E. Bondurant decided to plant his little village that would be a center for the shipment of grain the center needed so badly by the farmers. "Tom's Town" the neighbors called it, and indeed it was Tom's Town, for as long as he lived, the village and its welfare was dear to his heart.



T.E. Bondurant — founder of DeLand.

(Thomas Bondurant had arrived here with others of his family in 1854. He soon thereafter secured 293 acres of land in the north-central half of the township, paying the government fifty cents an acre. He immediately put out an orchard near which he built a house for the family. This house stood north and a little east of what is now the village. The lane to it was directly opposite what we now call Main Street. His land was partially covered with water each year and he drained it with a mole-type contraption mentioned before. Mr. Bondurant was honest and industrious and a shrewd business man. He added to his holdings from time to time and became one of the wealthiest men in central Illinois. He was the first president of the First National Bank of DeLand which was established in 1900. He was a very generous man, giving freely to the churches as well as taking an active interest in their work. He took an interest in neighboring churches, as well as the Eureka college which was affiliated with the Christian churches. He served as supervisor of Goose Creek Township for seven years. He built a beautiful home at the edge of DeLand for his family which at that time consisted of his mother, his sister Mary, and his niece Lucy Thornton who was his secretary. This was in 1882. He died there in 1905.



Miss Mary Bondurant — sister of Thomas. Gave DeLand the Park and the lots for the library.

Mary Bondurant continued to live in the home after her brother's death as did Lucy Thornton, who had become Mrs. George Trenchard. Both women as well as Mr. Trenchard, were active in the community. Miss Bondurant was active in the Woman's Club being a Charter member. She gave to the village the site for the park and had most of the work done in the building of it. She also gave the township the site for the Carnegie Library and was on the Noard of Trustees for quite some time. She and Mrs. Trenchard both died in 1921.



Mrs. George Trenchard — niece of Thomas Bondurant.

Mrs. Trenchard was also a Charter member of the Woman's Club. Her out-

standing work in that club was about 1909 or 1910 when she was president. She did a lot of the planning and writing to the Carnegie Foundation which resulted in DeLand getting the Carnegie Library-DeLand's pride and joy. She was also active in the church and in the gold and silver medal contests in the WCTU. Mrs. W. W. Welch, who was one of the winners of a silver medal when she was a girl, gave Mrs. Trenchard credit for coaching her to the point of success. Miss Molly, as she was affectionately known by her friends, and Mrs. Trenchard were both gracious ladies. Their home was the scene of many lovely receptions which were always enjoyed by those present.



George Trenchard

George R. Trenchard, was president and cashier of the First National Bank for a long time. He was also interested in church activities, other activities of the village, especially so during World War I when there were bonds to be sold and money raised for Red Cross and other war efforts. He served two terms as Goose Creek township supervisor. He owned a farm and farmed before becoming a banker. He was also active in the real estate business.

Mr. Trenchard was a native son of Goose Creek Township, being born southeast of DeLand in 1867 — two years after his parents the W.O. Trenchards came to Goose Creek Township.

Two of the sidelights of Thomas Bondurant's interest in his village were simple things but of value to the community. He planted maple trees all up and down the boulevards and they created shade and beauty for the town for many years. There are still some old maples in town that may have been among those he planted, though most of them are replacements. The streets of DeLand in the early days sometimes became a sea of mud during a long rainy period. At such times, it was very difficult for people who came to town





Old Bondurant home with some of the  
This home has since burned.

to shop, to load their groceries and other purchases into their buggies without getting mired down. Mr. Bondurant had several carloads of limestone slabs shipped into town which he had laid along the edges of the sidewalks, thus giving solid ground on which to load and unload. Later, some of these slabs were used for curbing. It has been less than ten years since sidewalks were replaced on the south side of the Odd Fellow building (the old State Bank), the east side of the same bank and in front of Rigg's store, and the North side of what is now the Post Office, and the limestone curbing was taken up then.

Mr. Bondurant was a jolly man. He could take and enjoy a joke even if it was directed toward him. Once someone placed a doll on the community Christmas tree for him. The account said that "it pleased friend Tom very well." Mr. Bondurant was a bachelor and when he built the house in town he came in for considerable ribbing. To quote the article in the county paper:

"T.E. Bondurant is in Chicago buying furniture and carpets for his new residence. He has been gone for so long that some of the boys began to fear he had been allured from the paths of rectitude but remembered he couldn't naturally be expected to know all the wants of a household as quickly as a happy benedict so agreed he should have plenty of time."

Wendell Trenchard is a great nephew of Thomas Bondurant and lives at Bondurant place, the estate Mr. Bondurant established across from the Christian Church. The stately old house Mr. Bondurant built in 1883 burned in January of 1925 and a modern building replaced it. The latter was built by G. R. Trenchard and it is as stately and even more lovely

early DeLand automobiles in yard.

than the old home. Wendell married Helen Jones of Monticello — daughter of Roy Jones who was supervisor of Monticello Township for so many, many years — living well into his nineties. The Trenchards have one daughter, Mrs. Joanne French of Peoria. The French family consists of three sons.



Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Trenchard —  
present owners of Bondurant Place.

Wendell's sister, Mary, married Ray Timmons of Lodge. They live in Butler, Pennsylvania but have a country place southeast of DeLand. (The old Hank



Present Trenchard home — Bondurant  
place — residence of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell  
Trenchard.

McMillen place.) They have a daughter and a son. The son, George Timmons, lives east of DeLand with his wife Sue and three small youngsters. George farms with his uncle the Trenchard-Timmons farms.

Wendell supervises the farming on his farms and takes an active part in the community. He helped organize the DeLand State Bank in 1945, serving as its president until 1969, was President of the Farmer's Elevator for 20 years, served on the Carnegie Library Board for many years and was president of it when he retired in 1970, and has been active in both the Illinois and American Banker's Association. He was also president of DeLand's Village board at one time.

The Trenchard's have always been interested in such things as the Red Cross and Cancer Research. Mr. Trenchard has for years acted as Red Cross chairman in Goose Creek township and Mrs. Trenchard conducts the Cancer Drive each year, and is a director of the Third District of the American Cancer Society Illinois Division. She has been an active member of the DeLand Woman's club since she came here as a bride in 1926.



The Park when it was new.



The park now — showing plaque.



## THE SURVEYING IS DONE

The 23rd and 25th days of April and the 20th and 21st days of May in 1873 were momentous days for Goose Creek Township and its citizens. On those days the surveyors entered the area and began laying out the village of DeLand. The surveyor's certificate at the Piatt County Court House in Monticello reads:

SURVEYED FOR THOMAS E. BONDURANT BY C.D. MOORE, COUNTY SURVEYOR, PIATT COUNTY, ILL.

## THE VILLAGE OF DELAND

On the 23rd and 25th days of April and the 20th and 21st days of May, A.D. 1873. Said town situated on the N.W. Quarter of Sec. 9, Twp. 19, Range 5 E. of the 3rd principal meridian. A stone planted at the s.w. corner of block no. 10 is 662 feet east and 222.6 feet north of a stone planted at the S.W. corner of the SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Sec. 9 aforesaid. The figures on said plat indicating distances represent feet and tenths. For future reference and surveys, I caused stones to be planted in the following points to-wit: The n.w. corner of block 5; the n.e. corner of blocks 6 and 8; the s.w. corner of block 13; and the s.e. corners of blocks 14 and 16. The positions of said stones are indicated on the accompanying plat by ring thru 0.

Given under my hand this 21st day of May A.D. 1873. Authorized by Thomas E. Bondurant.

(The above and a plat of the village is given in book of Deeds No. 4).

The original village was all north of the railroad. The land upon which it was built was not a part of Bondurant's original 293 acres. It was purchased from the original owner, Ezra Marquiss by Mr. Bondurant.

When the surveyors were finished, the plat had been divided into 16 full block (4 each way) each 40 by 120 feet. There were 4 half blocks along the railroad which faced an east-west street instead of a north south street as the 16 did. The east west streets were numbered beginning with Railroad Avenue or 1st; 2nd; 3rd; 4th; 5th between the railroad and the creek. The five north-south streets were Western; Illinois; Highway Avenue (Main); Indiana; and Eastern. The streets remain the same today except that with additions to the town the avenues have been extended and south 1st, 2nd and 3rd have been added.

While the north-south streets are named the same on the Hill to the north of the Creek, there is also a one block street between Maddens and the Jeffrey's that is called Lowell Avenue, and the east-west street on which most of the houses front is called 6th street. Recently, through the efforts of the Senior Woman's Club under the direction of Mrs. Carter Wisegarver and Mrs. Charles Trigg, and other interested citizens, a permanent street signs

have been erected throughout the village.

As time went on, several additions were platted. The first block south of the railroad each have twelve lots as other additions do, but it is not laid out in blocks for description purposes. There are no alleys in those three blocks and the land is described as lots 1, 2, 3, 4, etc., in the N.W. 4 of the S.W. 2 of Section 9, twp. 19 n.e. x 5 E., etc. I know of no explanation for this difference.

The land east of Highway Avenue is in the Dewees addition and the four blocks south of the lands above mentioned are in the Marquiss addition. North of the Creek are the 1st and 2nd Bondurant additions. The land that goes about halfway out East 3rd street is in the village also.

At one time, there was considerable farm land in the village on the east, west and north sides of town but in 1934 they were petitioned out by farmers who felt being in the village added too much to their tax bill. For awhile their loss was felt deeply as it made much less revenue for the town (and still is felt!) This was especially true during the depression years. For about a week the lights were even turned off but they finally got around by lowering the number of lights.

## TOM'S TOWN IS OFFICIALLY NAMED DELAND

With the filing of the Surveyor's Certificate, Tom's Town officially became DeLand. The origin of the name DeLand and how the village got it is more or less a mystery and probably always will be. The DeLand family of White Heath, pioneer family of Sangamon township, firmly believes that it was named for their uncle, James DeLand, who put in the railroad. And their claim is plausible in-as-much as many villages were named for railroad men.

The Trenchard family of DeLand just as firmly believes that the town was named by Bondurant for French DeLand, a young surveyor friend of Clinton. Mr. Bondurant told Mr. G.R. Trenchard who passed it on to Mrs. Murphy of the Tribune, that he named the village for French DeLand. Mr. French DeLand is said to have laid out the town, but he could have done so under the county surveyor and the latter's name would still be on the certificate. French DeLand was a distant relative of the White Heath DeLands according to Earl DeLand with whom I once talked. DeLand's sister was Mrs. Reber Huston of this township and the paper noted his visiting here from time to time. Wendell says that Mr. Bondurant paid Mr. DeLand \$1,000 for the privilege of naming the town DeLand.

I believe that what may have happened is this: The railroad, when the tracks were finished put in a siding and a depot and named it for James DeLand. There is little doubt that the station-called DeLand Station, was put in in 1872 before the town

of DeLand was laid out. Items in the paper indicate this and the town of White Heath, founded in the fall of 1872 was at first scheduled to be named DeLand for their first peioneer family but was named for the Whites and the Heath's because the name DeLand had already been used.

It was suggested that the town be named Bondurant, but Mr. Bondurant turned that suggestion down. It is probable, that having his friend French DeLand in mind, he decided to go along with the railroad and call the village DeLand for French-not James. This is only theory, but it is the most plausible explanation that I can think of!

## DO YOU PRONOUNCE DELAND CORRECTLY? AND HOW DO YOU SPELL IT?

The spelling of the name of the town is DeLand not Deland. It should have been that from the beginning since all of the DeLand families spell their name with a capital "L". However, in the early days people wrote the word with a small l. As time went on considerable confusion arose. There was a little town in the area close to Bellflower by the name of DeLana. Since Americans are notoriously poor writers, it was inevitable that some would make the stem of the final "d" in DeLand a little too short which would make it look like Delana. Or they'd make the final "a" in DeLana with a short stem protruding making Delana look like Deland. Thus the mail was always getting sent to the wrong place and since both villages were on a branch of the Illinois Central, the same thing happened to the express and freight. The Monticello postmaster tried to help by adding Piatt County to the addresses of DeLand mail but to no avail. Finally the post office department in Washington took a hand. In 1901, it declared that from that time on the post office here should be spelled with a capital "L". But habits are hard to break. People continued to spell DeLand with a small "l" so Delana settled the matter by changing its name to Glenavon! And many still write it Deland.

The DeLand family pronounce their name with the accent on the second syllable. Which is the way it should be. The accent should never be on the first.

## INCORPORATION

The village was incorporated in 1899. The question had been warmly debated for several years. Up to the time the idea of incorporation struck, things had been done about town with mutual co-operation and good will and there were many folks who wanted it kept that way. In March 1896, this item appeared in the county paper:

"The question of incorporating our town is agitating our people, a petition with the required number of signatures to call an election having been filed. It is time for the voters to seriously consider the matter and



to be sure that we can see the substantial advantage to be obtained before voting for it. If we can not see this, we should consider the possibilities of surrounding ourselves with conditions that will bring about moral degradation, financial loss and a reproach upon our community."

An election was scheduled for April. If it was held, it failed, for in April of 1897 this item appeared.

"Incorporation is again agitating our little village, and like a boy after his first pair of boots, it thinks it only needs incorporation to make a populous city, but vain imagination. It will find this only paves the way to populated streets and gutters."

There was no doubt about which side the correspondent was on. He never did comment on the advantages to be gained. Things seemed to be rather quiet from the above date until late in 1899 when a vote was again held and won by a majority of 16. The county judge was asked to call an election for village officers. This was done and two tickets were on the ballot — Republican and Citizen. Seymour Marquiss ran for president on both tickets. (Perhaps no one else was brave enough to tackle the job!) S.A. Goodman and L.C. Cox ran for clerk; J.B. Garver and J.H. Rankin for treasurer. The candidates for the six trustees were: Republican — H.W. Gantz, H.G. Porter, J.E. Bickel, David McBride, C.A. Smith, and L.W. Reid.

Citizens: John Dresback, Wm. T. Keighin, Henry Gessford, Samuel Reddick, George W. Gordon, and John Vail.

No follow up was given on the election but I know that Marquiss was elected president and Goodman for Clerk.

And the activities of the board were not chronicled in the county paper. I do know that they immediately passed laws and compiled an ordinance book.

The first mention of a board meeting was in the Tribune of May 16, 1902. At this meeting John Mansfield was appointed street commissioner; J.H. French, treasurer; and committees on streets and alleys, sidewalks, public buildings, ordinances, finance and health were appointed. The president recommended that the streets be kept well scraped until June 15th; crossings built where needed and kept tidy during the year; weeds kept cut out of the streets. He named several sidewalks that needed to be built, mentioned the need for more hitchracks, and that our streets should be well lighted at the least possible expense, and that statutory laws should be enforced. Quoting:

"And as I am made to understand that the organization of the village of DeLand was brought about for the purpose of building up the village in growth and prosperity, in morals, in business and energy, and in fact everything good and nothing bad, to these ends I shall, as your President bend all my best energies according to my best judgment and I do sincerely recommend that you as mem-

bers of the board do join me in all this."

This sounds as if a new President of the Board might have been elected. It is too bad that his name was not mentioned in the paper. He sounds like a good one!

I do not have a complete list of Presidents. My list includes J.E. Bickel, W. H. Hardin, Dr. G.S. Walker, W.B. Trenchard, Howard Dresback, and Ellis Leischner. The present president is Paul Manning. Some of these were in the office for several terms. Mr. Bickel and Dr. Walker were probably in office longest. Presidents also were C.E. Carrier, J.N. Rodman, and J.B. Rinehart.

## THE ORDINANCE BOOK

THE NEW ordinance book was used until 1907 when it was revised by Squire Pfeffer, a Monticello lawyer and published. There was a copy of the first one at the Library but it has disappeared. The town board has a copy of the second and it is in force today except for a few laws that have been repealed. The second book is called "The Municipal Code of the Village of DeLand."

According to the State Law, the code had to be read section by section, and each section voted upon separately by the Board. The entire Code, before being printed, had to be copied in long hand in a suitable book provided for the purpose. The person copying it was to be paid so much per 100 words. Jim Souders, clerk of the Board at the time, turned the job over to his daughter Gladys (Now Mrs. Henry Remmers). This is the last ordinance book compiled and printed because it is a very expensive process. Many Ordinances have been passed and published in the Tribune since that time. Publishing an Ordinance is mandatory.

The Ordinance book stated the boundaries of the village (long since changed), gave the election rules, the duties of officers, several of which has been dispensed with including the village attorney because he was seldom needed and the retainer he had to be paid was too expensive, qualifications for the different jobs, and other rules for conducting proceedings.

Some of the Ordinances covered the following: Limited new buildings in the business district to brick or concrete; the board of health and its dealings with vaccinations, quarantines, burials, and slaughter houses; Auctioneers; Shows; billiards; peddlers; house movers; and ice wagons. All of these had to have licenses. Pool rooms were to be closed on Sundays and from 11:30 to 5 A.M. on weekdays and no one under 16 was allowed to enter. Listed as nuisances were stables, pigpens, manure piles, privies, dead animals, slaughter houses, barbed wire and hedge fences. All these had to be kept in a manner not to foul or offend anyone.

Every able bodied man was to work two

days a year on the streets unless they were paupers, idiots or lunatics.

Mention of the calaboose occurred occasionally. This was a building built for a creamery that stood just south of the creek. After the creamery failed, it was sold to the village who used it for village board meetings, to store records and as a jail. Tramps were also guests occasionally and were sometimes given overnight lodging. It finally was torn down. The village board now meets in the firehouse and records are kept there in a safe.

There was a long list of misdemeanors in the 1907 Ordinance book — in fact, some fifty-nine sections were devoted to such misdemeanors as riding animals on boulevards and lawns; stopping animals or vehicles across sidewalks obstructing passage; firing guns or firecrackers (the latter were excepted on the Fourth of July); climbing street lamps, telephone or light poles; and disturbing the peace. There were many ways of doing the last named.

Over the seventy-three years of incorporation such topics as fire protection, street lights, water, telephones, gas, pavements, oil for streets, sidewalks, clean-up campaigns, the park, enforcing the laws, and financing it all have come up and been some of the problems the Village Board has had to face and solve. Sometimes the road to success has been a long and arduous task (for example the need for water), and sometimes it has been in vain. But at least we have not ended up as one citizen feared. One Thomas Kicker bemoaned incorporation and the idea of bringing more railroads or factories into town. He painted a dire picture of tall brick buildings, graveled roads, cement sidewalks, electric lights, stand-pipe waterworks and finished his criticism thus:

"Soon the town will ring with such clatter that dozing the happy hours away in a chair in front of Bill Haggard's store will be out of the question."

The fears of those who opposed incorporation have certainly not been vindicated!

The present Village board consists of Paul Manning, president; Lyle Barr, clerk; Richard Loney, Cecil Clemons, Carl Ray Norton, B.W. Swanstrom, Louis Kallembach, Jr., and Loran Vaughn, trustees.





## PROBLEMS THE BOARD SOLVED FOR OUR WELFARE

### Streets and Alleys

The streets of DeLand were plain dirt roads to begin with and they were made up of mud in the winter and ruts when frozen and inches of dust in the summer. The dust was especially bad in those years we had droughts. You'd be surprised at the amount of dust from a dry street that rolled in from one horse and buggy when there had been no rain for some time. And getting mired in a mud hole in rainy weather was an easy thing to happen and it took some doing to get out.



Highway Avenue with muddy streets as seen from Railroad Ave. looking north.



Muddy Railroad Avenue looking east from Illinois Ave. Shows house across from lumber yard, shop that is now a part of the Cob office, and hitchracks.

About 1915 the idea of oiling the streets took hold. Other towns had tried oil and reported it most efficient. So DeLand tried it and found it a solution. Of course the roads did break up after the freezing and thawing of winter, but outside of that, they were wonderful. Oiling roads continued until about 1938 when they began to add gravel or crushed rock to the oil to keep it off the cars and off shoes. It was heck to get off! The past few years, DeLand has used the oil and crushed rock every two years and it makes the streets stay in good and passable condition the year round.

The Main Street of DeLand-Highway Avenue was paved in 1926. When the brick pavements at each end of this street were put in earlier, many people felt that the roads should be connected by a pavement through the town. On June 6, 1919, the

village board voted to put in two pavements through the town. One from Fifth street to the top of the hill and east on an unnamed street (now route 10) to Luther Conner's residence (now Long's). The gap between this and the brick pavement running north was to be paid for by public subscription. The second stretch was to be run from the south corporate limits of the town through the residence and business section to Fifth street. This put pavement the whole length of Highway avenue and why they made two pavements I do not know. The width was to be wider through the business district, ten feet wide the rest of the way. The bridge was to be lowered about a foot.

The meeting had gone well to this point when they began to consider materials. Then they struck a snag. Concrete finally won over brick. Some considered concrete second grade material. It was comparatively new and hadn't yet proved its qualities. And some had been advised that brick was better. It was quite a meeting from thereon. To quote:

"The regular session of the board was somewhat lengthened (June 6, 1919) on account of it being necessary for the clerk to read the two long paving ordinances, and while the clerk read the detailed plans and specifications, time passed slowly. But when the time came to pass the ordinances there was plenty of fun, speeches, talks and arguments and heated discussions. The vote resulted in a tie on both strips of paving and President Rodman cast the deciding vote in each case and each time voted for concrete.

"Trustees Rinehart, Dresback and Porterfield voted for the ordinances each time while Walker, Jones and Hursh voted against them. There seemed to be no dissension on the part of the board members over the paving except the matter of the kind of pavement. The brick paving men were as determined as the concrete men and although there was plenty of lobbying, there could be seen no change in the attitude of the members and they voted the way they argued. For awhile it looked like the passage of the ordinances would be delayed while part of them went to see some concrete roads which had been down for a number of years, but no date could be arranged so the voting went on."

What happened to this road, no one seems to remember. Possibly it turned out to be too expensive, or it may have been turned down by the voters, but DeLand wallowed in mud and dust for another six years before paving the Main street again became the question of the day. Oil did not seem to suffice in the business district!

In 1925, the state decided to aid the village in paving the Main street through the county road system. The county would put in the pavement through town to the width of nine feet. If any more width was

desired, the village and the citizens along the street would have to foot the bill. It was decided by the village board that the pavement would be built 18 feet wide from the brick pavement at the south for two blocks, each homeowner to pay for the strip  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide in front of his property. From what is now W.G. Trigg's property north to the corner of 4th street, the street was to be 30 feet wide and across the creek it was to go back to 18 feet.

The contract for the nine foot section through town was let by the County Supervisors to a Fremont firm, the cost to be \$13,401.38 and the county was to furnish the cement. The contract for changing the course of Goose Creek at the bridge north of the business section and the straightening of the bend in the road there, was let to a contractor named Little from Sullivan. It was estimated that 600 cubic yard of dirt would have to be moved in making the new channel and filling up the old. The work cost 45 cents a cubic yard. The bridge was lowered two feet.

There were many objectors to the widening of the pavement beyond the nine feet being put in with state aid. There were also some wage disputes by the workers at the cars on the railroad. They wanted 40 cents an hour instead of 35 cents. But in spite of all this the 820 feet of 18 foot pavement and 5505 feet of nine foot was finished by July 24, 1925. Lack of water and material shortages and weather combined to delay them. The grading was to be finished and turned over to the state the first of August. The northern section to the brick road was opened to farmers who were threshing and hauling grain. The contractor left the mixer and some other equipment here on the chance that the village would be ready by fall to let contracts for additional pavement, but when they did let the contract for widening the pavement about a month later, the contract went to a Sullivan firm. The additional pavement was finished during the summer of 1926. Also the three business district blocks north of the railroad were widened a little more than that on the block south of the railroad. For awhile the paving caused great inconvenience. They had to build bridges across some of the crossings so that grain could be hauled to the two elevators.

Most of the streets were laid out in the original town when the village was surveyed. Illinois avenue just south of the railroad had been opened up but was closed by John Mansfield. In 1905, the village opened it up again, paying Mr. Mansfield, Mrs. Goodman, and D.B. Troxel each \$30 and Ellis Reed and W.H. Chapin who had two lots each \$60. The Methodist Parsonage (Now Ronald Fisher's house) donated their right of way.

There was no street to the cemetery until 1903 when Illinois was extended from 4th street north and a footbridge put in so that the "People could walk dry shod to their cemetery." A wagon bridge also was



necessary.

The alleys in DeLand have seldom been an eyesore as so many alleys in larger towns are. Nearly everyone uses the mower on his alley when he mows his yard and some of them have looked like a lawn. True, there have always been trash cans in them but they did not detract too much. They have suffered, however, from the big garbage trucks that now haul away the trash and are harder to keep looking nice, because the trucks make ruts. Lots of folks have rebelled but there seems to be no answer to the problem.

#### Sidewalks

When the village was first laid out, of course there were no sidewalks, and since there was no governing body and no provision for a government, the villagers waded the mud in rainy weather and wore paths in dry weather. Ashes were excellent to fill up mud holes and cinders were shipped in and put on the main pathways. In May of 1876, it was reported that:

"J.B. Gordan, our street commissioner, (evidently they had set up some form of government by then), has improved the looks of our town by laying down something near half a mile of sidewalk." How Mr. Gordan got this job or what kind of material was laid down is not known.

Evidently there were already some wooden sidewalks as Mrs. Scott Rodman fell through one and sprained her ankle. These sidewalks were made of stringers of two inch lumber, probably two by fours, with boards laid crosswise on them. The latter were also two inch boards and could not be less than six inches wide. Most of the sidewalks up town were made this way. Down by the block that became the park, the sidewalk was built high enough above the ground that a small child could crawl under it. I remember that some of the children would hide under it and jump out at others to make them scream!

In November of 1889, a number of new sidewalks were put in "much to the comfort of pedestrians."

In 1890, it was reported that brick sidewalks were laid in front of the properties of Dr. Davis, S. Marquiss, H.H. Highfill, and G.L. Brown and from the corner of Main St. to the Wigwam. The sidewalk to the Wigwam was paid for by the ladies who gave a dinner and an oyster supper to finance it. They cleared \$40. Mr. Marquiss supervised the job of putting it down. It was suggested that a brick walk from uptown to the depot was desirable.

In 1892, the reporter criticized the sidewalk in front of Samuel Riddicks, saying that it was "getting positively in need of repairs. We wonder where the man is who looks after those things?"

By the 1900's concrete sidewalks were beginning to be considered. Ordinance No. 20 provided that property owners should pay the expense of laying and repairing sidewalks adjacent to their property

unless he elected to build one of concrete, in which case the village would help by paying for the cement and the labor of putting it down.

On Nov. 2, 1902 the reporter suggested that the sidewalk removed during the fire at Mrs. McBride's should be replaced. Evidently it was wood and they had picked the sections up and moved them to save them. So, though many concrete sidewalks were put in during the next few years, there were still many of brick and wood, (including those in the business district) that were gradually replaced by concrete.

Some of the earlier concrete sidewalks were put in by W.S. Elder, but after 1911, most of them were laid by A.N. Kerns who was a building contractor. He built the walk to the cemetery and put in the bridge and the town board was so pleased with his work that they promptly gave him a contract for putting in over 1000 ft. of sidewalk in various parts of the village.

Sometimes the village had trouble getting the people to put in sidewalks. In May 1893, this item appeared:

"The new sidewalk extending out to the eastern limits of town is completed except across one half block. The parties owning the half block say they do not need a sidewalk. Come now friends, think the matter over, change your minds, and conclude that it is a necessity and a good thing and take that ugly gap from the new sidewalk!"

For many years DeLand had a good system of sidewalks and although there are still blocks that have none, you can get anywhere by sidewalk. Some stretches of sidewalk are in bad shape, caused mainly by tree roots upheaval and by heavy machinery being run over them. In 1970 and 71, many of the uptown walks were replaced with narrower walks — putting the extra width into parking space which was badly needed and had the effect of widening the street. This was a big improvement.

#### The Party Line

DeLand had a telegraph office from the very start, but the telephone was practically unknown for a number of years. The earliest mention of a telephone was in 1885 when it was reported that C.F. Chamberlain had a telephone reaching from his store to his dwelling. The next mention of one did not come until 1897 when a carload of telephone poles was switched off here for a connecting line for the smaller towns to connect with the larger towns in the area. Evidently there were a few phones in the village before this.

By 1901, DeLand was putting in a new telephone exchange to include many surrounding farm homes.

In 1903, the village board at their meeting, refused the request of W.F.

Wasson for the privilege of planting poles in the streets and alleys for the purpose of putting in a telephone system, but granted the request of W. Dilatush to set telephone poles along Main street to string wires into the State Bank and into Dr. Reid's residence. The wires were to connect with the Bell telephone station that had been set up in Jim Gessford's harness shop. The reasons for refusing one request and granting another were not given.

In 1905, the local people were petitioning the Piatt County telephone company (owned by W.E. Lodge) for better service and a phone booth to be installed at the telephone office.

The telephone office in 1907 was in an upper room of a two story frame building in the middle of the block on the west side of Main street. It was run by Mr. and Mrs. John Motherspaw and their daughter Nelle who lived in the upstairs and ran a restaurant downstairs. The exchange was in this building when the Conner store burned and was saved by the men who sat on the roof and poured water down its sides after the small barbershop was pushed into the fire. Whether the exchange was always there and whether the Motherspaws ran it from its beginning I do not know, but it remained there until about 1921 when it was moved with the Motherspaw family to the rooms above the State Bank where it remained until the telephones were changed to dial phones. Mr. Motherspaw and Nelle both died there and Mrs. Motherspaw continued to run the exchange for some time before going to Texas where her son Karl was living.



Nelle Motherspaw, telephone office operator, a singer and a friend.

In 1926 the local office received a new switchboard and in 1927, the local telephone company was included in a big telephone merger. Ten telephone companies merged into one and was known as Standard Telephone Co. It was to serve a



total or twenty-five towns in Central Illinois. DeLand is now a part of the General Telephone System.

There were several people who acted as Telephone Operators for a number of years after the Motherspaws. Edna Hayes (Lubbers), Gertrude Conner Churchill, Daisy Adams, Lucille Sweeney, Mrs. Smith (now Mrs. Gus Maria), and Ruth Sprague. Possibly there were others. They all gave good service and it was with regret as well as pleasure at progress, that we no longer had an operator to ask the time or where the fire was, or whether the oil man's truck was down on the street or the myriad other things the public expected of their operator. In 1962 the Dial System was put in. The telephone exchange is now a little building back of Smith's garage full of wires and who knows what, and if we need help in a hurry there are numbers you can dial. Very convenient but quite impersonal.

One little story — a joke on the writer (or the operator). When I was in the library and Lucille Sweeney was here, I had a very unreliable clock. One evening, someone came in and asked to use the telephone. I heard her ring and then sputter "W-H-A-T?" I knew immediately what had happened. Lucille had answered with out waiting with "You can't go home yet. You'll have to stay five more minutes." I hastened to explain. But how is that for service. No dial phone would do that!

### Light on the Subject

There were no street lights in DeLand for many years. When one wanted to go to church or anywhere else after dark, he carried a lantern or stumbled along in the dark unless there was a moon to aid him. Talk of street lights began prior to 1902 and about that time there was some experimentation of various kinds of lamps.

"It seems possible that DeLand is soon to have her street lights. For the purpose of being able to decide as to their merits, we understand that several makes are to be tested for a period of two weeks. Monday, a Doran lamp on an iron stand was placed at Goodman and Brothers corner and lighted that evening and gave satisfactory light except that the low hanging limbs of trees obstructed its reaching both sides of the business district. Four lamps of the capacity of the one shown (1200 candlepower) with all the trees trimmed to proper height, would seem to be sufficient to light the business street and certain of the cross streets quite nicely if placed at the intersection."

A Ludwig of 700 candlepower, price \$50, a BEST lamp of 16 candlepower, price \$59 were placed at the Dewees and Gessford corners. The Ludwig and Doran lamps (price \$45) had iron stands and manties over the burners. The BEST was an ordinary jet burner on a wooden post and the

fourth to be tried — a Marvel would be hung over the street on a wire. A little later, six Marvel lamps were ordered, each 750 candlepower, price \$15 each. W.S. Elder was to put them up, furnish the wire for hanging them and the pulleys and the village was to furnish the poles. When the new arc lights were in position, it was thought that they were satisfactory. One in the south part illuminated that part of town and allowed persons to get along even where the sidewalk had not been replaced.

The village decided to put in more arc lights in November 1902 and Mr. Hurst installed a new lighting plant in his store.

Evidently the lights began to fail in a short time, for within a year they had been given up as junk. And now the town was again in darkness and the editor of the Tribune complained:

"What is the matter with our street lights? The one up near Eastern avenue has not been lit for a year and the marshal should see that they are put in order and lighted if they are not in order." And later, when they had all failed: "If the town was too poor to have lights there would be some excuse, but we are not poor and the sooner this matter is brought to the notice of the town council, the better. Let us have light of some kind!"

It had been 18 years since Vail and H.H. Highfill had erected street lamps on the corners of their respective businesses which were declared quite a convenience. "A few more on our street corners would add much to the safety of our dilapidated sidewalks."

In 1903, talk began about getting an electric light plant. T.C. Reed of Casey came to interview the citizens concerning one. The city lawmakers met in special session and took steps to install what was considered to be essential to every village or city — light plant. They made arrangements for an investigation of electric lighting. Bickel, Churchill, and Hassinger were appointed to do the investigating. Evidently they did not consider those they saw too satisfactory or else they were too high priced. At any rate, Mr. Reed did not make a sale.

In 1904, a Mr. Pike from Chicago submitted a proposition for lighting the town — evidently it was to be gas lights as he agreed that for \$6100 he would erect a suitable building, lay two miles of mains and put in ten lights of about 125 candlepower which would cost about a cent an hour to run. Private property would be piped and lighted at the expense of the owner. A Committee went to another town, investigated and decided that if the expense were to be the question between lights and water, the town had better put in water.

In 1909 they were still talking lights. The Methodist Church had a hydro carbon light

on its corner. It was bright, but it cost \$50 which was higher than the town thought it could afford if they lighted the whole town which would take 60 lights.

In June of 1909, Cooper Bowsher installed an engine and a dynamo and his garage was brilliantly lighted with 6 electric lights of 32c.p. each. The motor company had the first electric lighting plant in a business place although one or two people had installed them in their homes. But the success of the Bowsher lights did it. Talk began in earnest. In December, D.M. Bunn of Decatur came to look over the prospective installation. The first plan was for a local syndicate to buy power from the Illinois Traction System and bring the power here from the sub-station at White Heath.

In 1911 they finally and positively decided upon electric lights. An Electric Light Ordinance was passed giving I.C. Bowsher a 20 year contract. He was to build a room for the plant which was a battery plant, and was to furnish 40 tungsten lights for the street corners. On Highway Avenue in the business district, were erected 10 poles, each with a cluster of three lights. That gave light to three blocks which made the business district very attractive at night.

In September, it was reported that the linemen were at work on the lighting. On October 5th, the lights were reported as being on for the first time. (Just a trial run). In November, the switchboard for the plant arrived and was installed. The batteries and generator were in place, and presto! we had at last a good lighting system.

The new street lights were a big improvement in the town although at first they were burned only until midnight. Midnight owls were out of luck. They went home in the dark. Perhaps it was an inducement to keep early hours, but finally the lights won and were left on all night. Today they come on automatically at dusk and stay on till daybreak.

There were times when people grumbled. Women then invariably washed on Monday and ironed on Tuesday. And they all bought electric irons. On ironing day the lights dimmed everywhere. And when something was going on at the High School — such as a ball game or a play, the lights all over the town flickered and dimmed all evening. This was all changed in the summer of 1928 when the Illinois Power and Light Company took over. In March of that year, the village board granted a 20 year franchise to that company, allowing them to replace the lines in the village and use power that was brought in from one of their plants. By June, the power company was unloading materials and poles and trimming trees. As it turned out, it was fortunate that Bowsher had sold his plant as he died during that period. In November, all was in place and IPL linemen cut over the lines and connected up the service to the local patrons. Street



and cluster lights were turned on automatically at 7:15 each evening and turned off at 12.

This company — now called the Illinois Power Co., still has a franchise with the village. In 1948 the franchise was renewed and the company installed an electric eye to turn the street lights off and on at daybreak and sunset. Most of the old street lights were replaced in 1960 and newer brighter lights replaced the old cluster lights.

The Illinois Power Co., sells electric power but it also sells natural gas. In 1961, the village granted them a 50 year franchise to bring natural gas into the village. In 1962 the gas lines were completed and most of the citizens converted their coal or oil heating systems to gas. By this time the age of appliances had arrived and it takes a lot of electricity to run the town. It is very pleasant to have all this except when an ice storm occurs and puts out the electricity that runs the gas furnaces. The company repairs damages as fast as possible but sometimes we endure a few cold hours. However, the last and worst such storm was in 1967. The two that we remember before that happened while many people still had oil or coal for heat. And one back in the forties only bothered a few people. One group of women in the town decided to go to one home where there was a cookstove to get breakfast on and to another where there was a space heater to play bridge. One, unthinkingly, took her electric percolator along and another took an electric toaster! So there are always bright spots in the situation!

#### WATER WORKS AT REST?

While large cities and towns had water systems in the early days, villages didn't. Like the farms each family had a well and depended upon it for drinking water and each had a cistern to use for washing. However, most of these wells were shallow, dug wells of from 15 to 20 feet and thus subject to contamination from surface water that seeped into them. Then they were prone to go dry in the summertime and the family had to carry drinking and cooking water from deeper wells in the neighborhood. Only a few had deep or drilled wells. These were considered safe. There were cases of typhoid now and then and of dysentery and cholera Morbus among the children and it is probable that many of the wells were contaminated long before the people realized it. There were two town wells — one at the corner of Main street and 3rd street and the other in front of Bickel's Blacksmith Shop down by the park. A windmill was put up at the latter and a tank provided for watering horses. Another tank for watering was just north of the present library site. There was also a well at the northeast corner of Jim Gessford's shop. It is probably now under the present DeLand State Bank. Not much water in case of fire!

In 1904 after the town had had three disastrous fires and innumerable small ones, the citizens began to be concerned. About this time, too, the Iroquois theater fire occurred in Chicago, costing many lives. It was a disaster that stirred the whole nation, including DeLand. The people here began talking fire equipment, saying that we must take a lesson from the Chicago disaster and that since DeLand was not poor, we could have a system of waterworks without affecting people's pocketbooks too much. But when a meeting was called, only five people showed up and most of the evening was spent making light of the situation. One suggested that the marshal empower anyone he saw to load the water tank in front of Bickell and Dillavou's, raise it up and pour the water on the burning building!

In August the school building burned along with some minor fires. The committee appointed to investigate both water and lights advised the water system. After the Vail fire early in 1914, the village board began seriously to consider a water system. There was much ado before hand. Some wanted it, others opposed it. Consultation with the University Water Survey department brought out the fact that there was no water below DeLand, and that was discouraging. They had the money to spend for it and the board argued and debated but could find no answer. One evening, the debate became so warm that part of the trustees walked out. It looked as if the discussion was at an end. Then George Keller spoke up: (and the following is as Dr. Walker quoted it to the writer);

"Well, boys," said Keller, "I don't see anything to do but to go to work and spend all the money as quick as God Almighty will let us. I move that we bring in a drill and drill until the money gives out!"

And that is exactly what they did. They started the first well in January hoping to get water at 125 feet. By March they were at 140 and no water.

In the meantime they found that the bond issue was illegal and they had to have a new one to take its place. Voting in April, the issue carried by a 41 majority. They gave up on the 140 foot hole and dug one to 85 feet. It pumped only 20 gallons per minute. A contract was signed with a new company to go to 225 feet. That was abandoned. These wells were on village property just south of the creek. Another try was at Porter's elevator and was abandoned at 225 feet. The well digger sank a well on Alva Reed's place south of town and got 50 gallons per minute. But only salt water, sand or a dry hole in those tried in the village!

Well, as expected, the money did run out and still no water system. Some wag erected a cross at the corner of what is now Madden and Trigg where the Vail building

had earlier burned, tied a piece of black cloth around it to resemble crepe and labeled it "WATER WORKS AT REST!" It was indeed at rest and remained so until the 1930's when three more major fires had practically finished off the business section, and a typhoid epidemic among the school children put most of the wells in town out of business for drinking water.

The straw that broke the camel's back was the 1933 fire and the typhoid epidemic when it was discovered that most of the wells in town were contaminated. A water system became a MUST. And the only solution was to borrow money from a government fund. On October 19, 1934, the village board signed a contract for a loan and grant between DeLand and the U.S.A. for a PWA loan of \$33,000 for the construction of a water system, if a supply of water could be found. A portion of the money was to be sent here by the government who would buy revenue bonds for the balance of the loan. The sale of water would be used to pay off the bonds. About 75 users were needed. The village was to issue bonds for \$26,000 to pay off its share. They were to accept bids on the digging of the well and erect a steel water tank 75 feet high, a pumping station and put in the mains and hydrants.

At first the people were slow in signing up as users. Then the Williams bakery burned. That speeded things up a bit. And there were more cases of typhoid. Again they dug, and dug, and dug—here and there over town. No water! They had to borrow more money. Finally, on the sixth test well sufficient water was found. The 7th well was the permanent well put down close to the 6th. It was on the Trenchard farm just north of the township high school. This well had plenty of water but it was too hard. A water softener and something to remove the iron was added. From that time on, there was one delay after another. One company asked to be released from their contract with the village, the grant from the government had to be increased, funds were granted but held up. Finally, all the problems were ironed out, the work was finished, the water declared fit to drink, and the water meters installed. By now it was 1940. The project had taken six long years to accomplish. But it soon proved its worth when the Christian church was saved from total destruction by fire, and the typhoid epidemics were at last over. Had they but known it, there was a wide vein of water running from southeast to northwest under the town that the water survey seemed to have missed. It was a case of drilling in the right place.

But paying for the water has been a long and tedious task. The village did what the township had done earlier with the railroad bonds—failed to keep up the payments. This has increased the cost and we are still paying, but the water system is certainly one of our blessings.



## BUILDING BEGINS

According to the county records, the first lot sold by Bondurant to be registered was town lot 4 in block 11. This was on July 4, 1873 and was bought by one Cairy Busford whom no one seems to remember. Other early buyers were John and Mary Vail, Vail and Moody, George Corder and James Mace. Since people were then a little careless about registering property, it is probably that there were others.

The first step in building up a community after selling lots is of course to build shelter and business houses to supply the other necessities of food and clothing. This happened in DeLand in late 1873 and early 1874. Three or four houses were built and a general store went up.



Gladys and Dick Dresback in front of Langdon house before remodeling.

According to some early histories and Thomas Bondurant's statement, the first dwelling house in DeLand was built and owned by B.C. Langdon—the first grain buyer. It stood on the southwest corner of the intersection of Illinois avenue and 3rd street where Mrs. Parley Gantz' house now stands. Langdon lived in it for awhile and then sold it to John Bickel who later moved it to a lot on the north-east corner of the intersection of Illinois and South Second. In its place, Bickel built a larger house for his growing family which was razed only a few years ago. The first house is now owned by Warren Fisher.



Seth Langdon house-remodeled. Owned by Warren Fisher.

But Miss Piatt's History of Piatt county says that John Vail built the first house.

The Vail home is still in existence and stands on its original site on the northwest corner of the intersection of Indiana Avenue and 2nd street. For many years it was owned by the Eubanks and the Wests.

The question of which was the first house in DeLand will probably never be resolved. According to tax records, both lots were improved the same year, so it is a toss-up as to which was first.



Tilson house now remodeled and owned by Bert Smith.

Some of the first dwellings were moved into DeLand from the country. The first to be moved in was the Dick Tilson house. He placed it on the corner where the Methodist church now stands. At the same time, he moved his blacksmith shop in from a site a mile southwest of the railroad in what is now the Gantz timber on the west side of the creek. When the Methodist congregation wanted the Tilson house site for the new church, the house was moved by R.B. Moody to the northwest corner of the intersection of Illinois and South Second. Today, Bert and Mattie Smith live in it. Both the Smith's and the Fishers have remodeled the houses and aside from their architectural style, few would recognize them for 100 year old buildings.

Some of the other very old houses still standing are: A house on 3rd street owned lately by Roy's that was built just south of the railroad where Mrs. Alva Reed now lives. It was built by Wiley Dewees and a house just south of it was built by Dewees for his mother. When Clyde Porter built the house now owned by Bruce Meyer, the grandma Dewees house was moved south to the last block and today is Lavonne Burton's house.

Ellis Leischner's home was the first south of the railroad and was built by a man named Brown. The Hall house was built by a man named Higfill, who moved four rooms that stood behind what is today the Tribune Building, and added to it. The Hall house was occupied for many years by the Chapin family and then by the Chapin daughter, Donna Reid. Mr. and Mrs. Carroll also lived there a long time.

Robert Dillon occupied the Leischner house for many years as did Mrs. Hammitt, Burford's mother.

Curley Webb's house was originally built at an early date and donated for a Methodist Protestant Parsonage by Thomas Bondurant.

The house occupied today by the Gaines family across from the town hall was built by Henry Gessford who was a fine carpenter and one of the first five families to settle in DeLand.



Propeck house now occupied by Mattie Burton. Built by George Race at an early date.

There are other old houses — Mrs. Burton's across from the old township high school. The old Crisman house, the house next to the Christian church, — undoubtedly there are others whose history is unknown. But the one with a "different" history is the house in which Irl Cathcart lived for so many years, now occupied by Loren Vaughn. This house was built by Dr. Davis for a residence and office on some of the lots in block 10, north of the present State Bank. In 1895, the site was wanted for some new business buildings, so Dr. Davis had his building moved east across the alley to its present site. Shortly before the decision to move it, Dr. Davis had dug a new cistern, which he was loath to leave. He determined to move the cistern, too. One source says that he got the walls of the cistern up out of the ground but broke it when he lowered it into the new hole. Another source says that he demolished the structure before he got it up. Some folks think this is a tall tale. But true or



The D.O. Fisher home. One of DeLand's modern houses.



not, it is a good story and one person told me that Dr. Davis was perfectly capable of attempting such a stunt.

The village of DeLand is much changed today from what it was in those early days, but it still has some of the same characteristic.

A neighboring newspaper once described DeLand as a beautiful little village with an abundance of shade trees, and houses, most of them painted white. While we have lost many of the shade trees, most of the houses are still painted white and the yards are kept neatly mowed. With the advent of the gasoline mower, it is much easier now to keep a place looking nice. The writer remembers when her father staked the pony out in the back yard to "mow" off the high grass! The styles of housing have changed with the times, but it is still a beautiful little town.

### BUSINESS WAS GOOD

Business was good in the early days. It had to be. It took a couple of hours or more to go to Monticello by horse and buggy and the day was shot. One could go to Clinton and spend the day, but again the day was gone. One couldn't run over to Clinton and spend the day just to get a spool of thread, or a saw or a loaf of bread, or repairs for a piece of machinery.

The first business building in DeLand was a two story frame building put up by Vail and Moody for a general store. It stood where the postoffice now stands. The lower floor was a general store that sold groceries, dry goods, and whatever else was needed. The upper floor was occupied by the "Hall", a large room rented out for various meetings and church services. After a year or two Moody sold out his interest to Vail, and later on, after Vail built his drug store building — a double building on the corner where Madden and Trigg have their Insurance office now, other firms took over including a man named Chenowith and L.B. Hurst. Both ran general stores there. It was often spoken of as the Chenowith building. When the First National Bank was built on that corner, the old building was moved a block north to the spot where John Dean Roos now lives.



Business Block on Highway Ave.



Fonner store, Christmas party

Moody and Vail were two of the five earliest settlers in DeLand. Both men were Civil War Veterans — both men came from Ohio, both were farmers in Goose Creek, Moody coming in 1868 and Vail in 1859. Both moved into DeLand soon after it was laid out, and both were prominent men, taking an active part in the building up of the town. Moody's wife, the former Rumina Hassinger of Ohio, also took an active part in the community, running a boarding house for traveling salesmen and other transients in their home. Both were charter members of the Methodist church. After selling out to Vail, Moody engaged in carpenter work. Next he built a grain elevator which he ran for a number of years. In 1889, he sold the grain elevator and devoted his time to the factory. He was a stock holder in the First National Bank. Mr. and Mrs. Moody had no children of their own, but took to their hearts several young people including James Moody, D.B. Troxel, Bruce Clemons, Pearl Clemons, Grace Jones, Eva Carroll, and Lawrence Dawson. Johnnie Carrol and Will Troxel stayed there for awhile as did Rumina Troxel who died at 24 and another Troxel sister who married Salem Kesler and was the mother of Lola Cathcart and Wave Hassinger who were residents here for many years. Many of these young people were relatives but the Carroll's came from Chicago. Johnnie was lame. He had a beautiful voice and sang for a long time in a male quartette that was well known around DeLand.

When "Uncle Bruce" died about 1912, "Aunt Minnie" moved to the house in the south part of town — the Tilson house and lived there till she was unable to live alone any longer. She lived with the Dave Troxel family for sometime before she died.

John Vail, a product of a log cabin and a subscription school in Ohio, was a druggist for many years following his adventure in the general store business. Mr. Vail was a



J. Q. Carter — Lumber Yard.

Democrat — in fact they spoke of him as the "Boss Democrat" and was appointed postmaster two times. He held several township offices and served one term as Deputy Sheriff of Piatt County. The Vail's (Mrs. Vail was the former Mary Drais of Ohio) had five children. One died in infancy; Arminda married John Harrison — early DeLand doctor; Mary married Taylor Majors, Lucinda married W.O. Cobb and Ida married Lewis Mathews. The Mathews had sons Ray and Fay. Fay lived with his grandparents for many years but died when a young man. Ray married Eva Trigg and had several children. They farmed southeast of DeLand for many years before moving to Michigan. The Cobb family also lived here and was in the furniture and undertaking business. Their home was the present Ted Webb house. Mr. Vail, after his wife's death sold out his home and retired to California. He still owned the drug store building at the time it burned in 1914.

Building continued until, by late 1875, the following business houses were mentioned. The reporter began his account thus:

"I tell you "Young Chicago" is improving rapidly. We have a billiard hall (location not given) and the boys make things go lively. G.H. Race, Proprietor, says everything shall be conducted properly, and we believe George for he is a splendid fellow in many respects."





Three buildings on east side made of tile — burned 1933.

"The Rienhart Brothers will soon have their new building completed and ready for a stock of goods." (This building was in the middle of the block on the west side of the present park. It burned along with buildings north of it in 1888.) The Rienhart Brothers were I.L. Rienhart and Joel who remained in the community for the rest of their lives. Joel was a Civil War Veteran. He and his wife Lily had one daughter, I believe. I.L. Rienhart had three children, Grace, Bruce and Ross. Both Bruce and Ross were connected with the State Bank and Bruce was editor of the Tribune for awhile. Bruce married and had a little daughter. Both the child and his wife died early. He then married Bess Cultra and had a daughter. Ross married Lucille Dauberman, a local high school teacher. He was connected with the Farmer City State Bank for a long time.

"The hardware merchants are doing a fine business. We wish them well." "H. Gessford is still at the old stand where he is always ready to oblige customers."

(Henry Gessford and his wife were one of the first five families to come to DeLand. The Gessford's came here from Dewitt county where he farmed after returning from the Civil War. The business he established here was under the name "Henry Gessford Mercantile Business." He conducted this business in the present Tribune building which he built. After five years, he sold out and began to work in real estate, building and selling houses and business buildings. He was an excellent carpenter and built well. The Gaines property was built by Gessford for a home. They had four children — James, a harness maker and dealer of harness and saddlery at DeLand; Charles G. who lived with his father and owned and operated a thresher and corn sheller; Maude, the first baby born in DeLand (her middle name was DeLand. She married Ed Johnson and they lived in Monticello. She had an outstanding voice.) and Bertram E. who was with his brother Jim in the harness business until he moved to Florida about 1908 or 09. The Gessford's were charter members of the Methodist church and he was active in the G.A.R.)

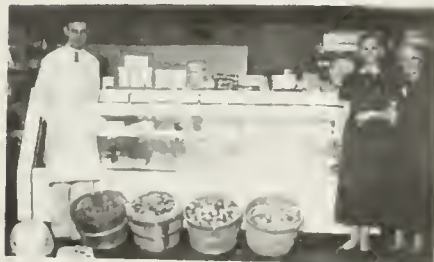
The drugstore, owned by G.W. Corder, has been closed for several days past. We understand he and his family are visiting at Clinton. This building was on the east side about where the bank driveway on the

southside is today. It was later owned by J.L. Reed and then by Jim Gessford.

Jim Gessford who ran a harness shop in the Corder building bought it in 1893. He also handled other goods such as trunks and valises and ran a shoe repair shop in the back. Children of those days had reason for remembering him. He had a life size, dapple gray wooden horse in the harness shop on which he displayed harnesses, but he was also a kindly, friendly man where children were concerned and delighted the youngsters by boosting them onto the horse, Old Charley, and letting them sit there for awhile pretending they were galloping over the prairies. In 1938 Old Charley was 64 and had been in the shop for 40 years. It was fun. He kept a supply of stock medicines and pamphlets to go with them and he shared the pamphlets with the 7th and 8th grade pupils when they were studying live stock in their agriculture course. The pamphlets contained pictures and descriptions of Percherons, Clydsdales, Normans, Shropshire, Hamshires, Poland Chinas, Duroe Jerseys, Holsteins, Guernseys, Herfords, Black Langshans, Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds and many others. The children of that day knew what they were! Do you?



Bakery building on Library site.



Dresback store — Dick, Winnie Leischner and one of the girls.

Jim was the son of Henry Gessford. He married Nannie Ammann, daughter of John Ammann, boot and shoe man, and his wife Margaret. They lived in a house where Burford Hammitt lives and replaced it with the Hammitt house. The

house was a two story house but a fire took off the upper story. When Mr. Gessford died, the store building was razed and Mrs. Johnson, his sister, sold the horse to Robert Allerton for his wooden horse collection. So far as I know, it is still on the Allerton place.

"The harness shop is in full blast. Mr. Parr late of Clinton is putting up some very neat sets of harness." This was an earlier harness shop down in the park area but I don't know exactly where.

These, except Jim Gessford's were the earlier businesses of DeLand and Jim's shop was later in the Corder building which was one of the first buildings in DeLand.

As time went by, more and more frame buildings were built which stretched from the railroad to the creek. Dick Tilson's blacksmith shop was also very early but more of it later. Business was booming. It looked like a growing community. It was reported in one paper that the grain buyers at DeLand shipped more grain in 1875 than was shipped at any other point in the county.



Smith's garage before light plant was built. Notice outside stairway to the next building. Used for schoolroom upstairs.



Smith's garage today.

## FARM RELATED INDUSTRIES

Many of the early industries in DeLand were farm-related. There was the grain business for which the town was founded. There were the stockyards along the railroad and the tile factory at the east edge of town. The creamery was built for the benefit of those having cream to sell as well as those who wished to buy. The cob business was a farm product put to another use. The blacksmith shops, the wagon and implement businesses, the goose farm and the turkey farm. All of these dealt with farm products or farm



needs. Today, the fertilizer business is of great importance to the farmer.

## THE GRAIN BUSINESS

Undoubtedly the biggest business over the years has been the grain business. The village was laid out because of the need for a shipping center for the nearby farmers.



Looking east up the railroad tracks showing all three elevators.

Grain buying began almost immediately and Seth Langdon, as you may guess, was the first grain buyer. The grain brought in was not stored as it is today nor dried by a commercial dryer. It dried in the fields and was brought in and scooped into the railway cars sent in to get it. In 1875 A.R. Borton, who was also in the grain business, had two large bins built for storing small grain. There had been over 100,000 bushels of corn shipped from this station during the preceeding year. It sold from 53 to 55 cents a bushel.

The 1880's saw the building of two grain elevators. Moody and Rodman built an elevator in 1881 that stood approximately where the new elevator stands today. The sheller attached to the Moody and Rodman elevator shelled 800 to 900 bushels an hour. Late in the eighties they built an addition and in 1889 it was sold to L.W. Tyler of a Chicago firm. In December of 1892, it burned and was not replaced.

In July of 1883, Kirker and Porter (Horace) commenced the building of a grain office across the siding from the depot which was then on the west side of Main street. This turned out to be a long time business as it was in the Porter family for 68 years. Porter had several partners from time to time including two brothers-in-law, O'Brien and J.Q. Carter. In 1885, Mr. Porter put in a steam engine to run the thing. In 1888, the grain buyers were complaining of the lack of cars in which to ship their grain. (Sounds familiar, doesn't it!) At one point, H.G. Porter looked over the situation at Lodge and threatened to move his business over on the Wabash if the Illinois Central did not furnish more cars!

In 1888, this item appeared in the DeLand notes: "DeLand shipped during the past year 403 carloads of grain by Porter and Carter, 1283 loads by Moody and Rodman; and 44 carloads of livestock making a total of 703 cars. Not included were 100,000

bushels of corn cribbed which is to be shipped."

The Porter elevator was unlike any we see today. To begin with, the elevator was built when there was no machinery to elevate the grain. Since it was necessary to have the grain higher than the car into which it was being loaded, it was necessary to use gravity. Consequently, the driveway of the elevator had to be high, and that in turn made it necessary to have a high driveway to the elevator. In order to accomplish this, the driveway had to be long. Porter's curved around from the elevator to the corner of the present park where the scale house stood.

Porter ran the elevator for many years—first with partners, then on his own and finally Porter and Sons. In 1905 he replaced the first elevator with a new and modern one. This stands today on the same site as the first and belongs to the Farmer's Cooperative. He also owned the elevators at Combes Switch 24 miles east of DeLand. The date of the first building at the Switch is unknown but a few people remember it. In 1909 he replaced this elevator with the present building which also now belongs to the Farmer's Co-op. Mr. Porter retired in 1910 because of poor health and his two sons, Clifford and Clyde took over the business and it became known as Porter Brothers.



2nd Porter elevator from the north.

The Porters were the longest established business in DeLand. Clifford, the oldest son, went into the business soon after he graduated from DeLand High School in 1895 in the first graduating class. Clyde went on to dental school and practiced a year or so before joining his father and brother in the grain business. The sons of the Porter brothers were also connected with the firm for awhile. They were Harold, son of Clifford, and Kenneth, son of Clyde. All of the Porter men are now deceased.

By 1950, both Porter brothers were beginning to feel the need of retiring. Both men had been active in the community and were highly respected. So when an offer was made by the Farmer's Cooperative Grain Company to buy them out, the Porters accepted the offer and retired.

Clyde died in 1959 and Clifford in 1971 at the age of 95. Thus for the first time in 67 years there was no Porter family living in DeLand. H.G. Porter farmed north of town first, moved to DeLand in 1878 and ran a store until he went into the grain business. Clifford's wife was Emma Gordon. They had 3 girls — Hazel, Cleo and Geneva, (Hazel Butler, Cleo Helfenstein and Geneva Millikin) besides Harold. None live here. Clyde married Joyce Chapin. They had two girls — Kathleen Reilly and Maxine Thornburrow besides Kenneth. H.G. Porter had another son — Gail and several daughters — Maggie Dewees, Estella Kesler and Fanny Herlocker.

In 1896, a third elevator was built at the east end of the DeLand siding by Mueller and company and was managed by Joe Rankin. In 1898 it was bought by Frank McBride and A.B. Dillavou. They built an addition to the elevator. (The price of corn that year was 31 cents). In 1900 the end of the elevator fell out spilling several hundred bushels of grain.

Over the years, several changes took place. It was purchased in 1903 by William West who sold it to M.H. Kahler who passed it on in 1909 to Joseph Parrish of Homer. He did not keep it long but sold it in December of 1909 to W.T. Hardin. Hardin kept it for five years, then sold it to J. Burt Porterfield. When Porterfield first talked about buying the elevator from Hardin, Hardin did not want to sell. So he upped the price thinking that Porterfield would turn it down. To his dismay Porterfield accepted the price. Hardin had been active in the community and he and his family liked it here. He had increased the amount of business 23,000 bushels the first year he had the business and the year he left had increased it 38,000 bushels. He went from here to Cisco.

On November 14, 1919, the DeLand Farmer's Cooperative Grain Company was organized. Officers elected were President-H.L. Swartz; Vice President-Earl Bragg; Secretary-G.R. Hursh; Treasurer-Alva Reed. These and three other directors-Wayne Wisegarver, Charles Beckett, and Christian Lubbers were elected to have charge of the company's affairs. There were 58 stockholders. The Charter was to run for 99 years. They planned to erect a new elevator unless one of the local grain men would sell at a reasonable price. Porterfield was willing to sell for \$25,000. The business was the farmers. They and Porter Brothers were competitors until 1950 when the latter sold to them. The capacity of the Porter elevator was 88,000 bushels and that totaled up to 200,000 bushels capacity for the farmers. The sale included the coal business of both elevators. In January of 1959, they added the Lumber Co. to their assets. In 1958, they put up fourteen steel bins with a capacity of 103,000 and in 1966 again expanded their holdings by building a new concrete high-rise elevator just south of



the lumber yard. It is 178 feet tall, has 19 bins with a capacity of 250,000 bushels and an attached dryer which allows the farmers to harvest their corn at a much earlier date. In 1971, an addition was built west of the 1966 structure. It has 14 bins with a capacity of 350,000 bushels. In 1972 a 55 foot steel tank 89 feet high increased the elevator storage another 200,000 bushels.

Now the new elevator and its additions, the three old elevators and 75 storage bins, the grain company was able to take in in 1971, dry and store over a million bushels of corn. Quite an accomplishment for DeLand and Goose Creek township where most of the million bushels were raised.

When the staff saw that the million bushel mark would soon be reached, they watched to see who would bring in the millionth bushel. Jim Huisinga, who farms southeast of DeLand was the lucky man and they presented him with a new Eisenhower silver dollar.



New Grain Office.

The present manager of the Farmer's Grain and Lumber Co. is Lloyd Crighton. The officers are President — J.E. Reed; Vice President — Lindell Huisinga; Sec. — Treas. — John Gantz; and Directors — George Timmons, Earl Kidd, Arthur Trimble and Don Hermann.

The Farmer's Cooperative now owns the Lumber Yard. Lumber yards were established early in the village and were located near the railroad. We believe that there was more than one lumber business in the early days but who owned what or where is a little hard to determine from the comments of the early correspondent. At an early date, G.L. Brown established one and for awhile James Stephenson was Brown's partner but he retired leaving Brown in full possession. Mr. Conway of Monticello bought out Mr. Brown. C.E. Dewees had something to do with the lumber company as did Henry VanViskle who had a woodworking shop between the lumber co. and the railroad.

Mr. S.A. Goodman was owner of the present lumber yard for a number of years. In February of 1903, he had a public sale and the building, sheds, and ground were bid in for \$4600 by Quincy Carter of Sidell. (Mr. Carter was the same Carter who had previously been a partner of Horace Porter in the grain business). Mr. Carter was an excellent business man and ran the lumber business efficiently until



Present lumber yard.

the building burned in 1917. After the fire, he built the present structure, finishing it in 1919. In 1921, he sold the business to Peter Kuntz of the Cook Lumber Co. of Dayton, Ohio, who held it until the Farmer's Cooperative bought it. During that time, there were three managers who stayed for many years — Howard Chaney, Melvin Vaughn and Irl Cathcart. Cathcart was there for 33 years. Lynn Shull has been in charge since Cathcart left. A.N. Kerns also had a lumber yard for awhile at the east end of 1st street but Carter bought him out.

The coal business has been a part of the grain business in DeLand most of the time. I think a few men dealt with coal in the earliest days and Ezra Morgan had a separate coal business for many years out at Combes Switch. In fact, the first elevator at Combes Switch is remembered more for its coal business than for its grain business!

Both Porter's and the East elevator sold coal. It was the fuel of the time. It became a primary part of the grain business until the 1950's when the oil business became profitable and many people converted to that fuel. Later, in the sixties, Illinois Power Company put in Natural gas and again the community changed fuels. Since the gas does not reach farm homes, many of the farmers use either fuel oil or skelgas. And fuel oil is needed for tractors and other machinery, so there are still fuel oil businesses here. Paul Manning delivers oil for the Marathon Co. and George Edwards for Piatt County Service Co.

But to go back to the coal industry. Coal bins were built along the siding west of Porters and west of the East elevator. They stored both soft and hard coal. A number of people burned the latter in what were called base burners. It was more expensive but gave out a regular steady heat and lasted over night. And it was much cleaner. Two buckets of coal each day sufficed unless the weather was unusually cold as in a blizzard. So most folks considered it less expensive in the long run.

There were times when coal was hard to get. When the miners went on strike, it affected everyone. At such times the word that there was a coal car on the siding soon emptied it. Often the amount to a customer had to be limited. During the

war years coal was rationed. During World War II, local men had to haul coal from nearby Illinois coal mines because the elevators were out so much.

Several times during DeLand's history there have been coal famines. One occurred in January of 1893. When two earloads arrived, word must have flown for the supply was gone in less than two hours. In 1903 hard coal was \$12.50 a ton and soft coal \$4.25 and you could buy a bucket of axle grease for \$1.00. What was axle grease? You greased buggy wheels with it so they wouldn't squeak. Now the coal bins are gone except for one or two dilapidated ones at the west end of the siding. The coal business is a thing of the past.

At one time there were stock yards near the east end of the siding. They fell into disuse when large trucks began hauling live stock directly from the farms to market. So the stock yards were sold to Elmer West who tore down the pens and made other use of the lumber.

Now there is a cob business at the east end. The business is owned by D.O. Fisher and son. Cobs used to be used as fuel in both heating and cook stoves and they far surpassed kindling for starting a fire. After everyone got their cob houses filled, the rest of the cob pile left from shelling was burned. About the middle of the forties, Bob Dresback started the business of stockpiling cobs and shipping them to a firm that made chemicals. E.E. Leischner shortly thereafter became a member of the firm. D.O. Fisher began working for them in 1947. About 1953 Fisher bought the business including the sheller and still runs it today. They ship 600 or 700 carloads a year to Memphis Tennessee. The cobs, meanwhile are piled up into a wire enclosure and sometimes the pile becomes pretty large. But the cob pile has dwindled some since farmers began combining their corn, and the Fishers have to go much farther to get their cobs which are hauled in large trucks.



Fertilizer Co.

At the west end of the siding, there is a place where phosphate fertilizer can be unloaded. There are now two fertilizer businesses in DeLand. One is the Kaiser Agricultural Chemicals, the other the Sohigro Service Company. The Standard Oil Division of the American Oil Co. also has L.P. Gas and Fertilizer. The last



named sells Anhydrous ammonia to put on farm land in the spring. It is located near Combes Switch. The Sohigro Co. is a part of the Vestron Corporation and sells farm fertilizer. It was started here in 1968 and is located about two miles east of DeLand. Ron Hall is manager.

The Kaiser Agricultural Chemicals plant is at the corner of Highway Avenue and 4th street. It is a successor to DeLand Phosphate Co. which was started several years ago by local people and was managed by Roy Vaughn. The Kaiser Co. is managed by Bill Carr.

### THE TILE FACTORY

The tile factory at the east side of DeLand — now the dumping grounds — was an early farm related industry. Farms had to be drained because they were swampy. The mole like tiler that was used originally did an exceptional job at getting rid of the swamps, but as the land was settled the farmers found it desirable to have a better way of draining the land. During the early 1880's, tile factories sprung up throughout central Illinois. At one time there were fourteen in Piatt County.

The DeLand tile factory was first announced in March, 1883. Said the reporter:

"If the land in this county is not thoroughly drained in the next few years, it will not be for lack of tile factories."

By July of that year our tile factory was booming. By August 15th, Bowsher, Gantz, and Wilson were burning their sixth kiln of tile. They had made 22,000 pressed brick, and had a mold from which they had made 100,000 molded tile.

In March of 1884, the factory caught fire and serious damage was averted by the prompt assistance of the citizens. In December of 1884, the proprietors reduced the wages of all their employees to 12 cents an hour, taking effect immediately. That caused some dissatisfaction and resulted in some changes of employees.

A.R. Borton and J.C. Borton were two of the original owners and in 1885, Moody bought out the interest of both. That gave him  $\frac{2}{3}$  interest. Somewhere along the line he bought out the other interest and became sole owner. In 1889, he purchased new machinery and the next year remodeled and fitted the factory with a new mill and shed. Business always boomed in the summer time but the factory closed down in winter. When business boomed, Moody stacked tile on lots that he owned around town. Evidence of this showed up when Howard Dresback built the house in which Mae Rudisill lives. The entire lot is underlaid with bits of broken tile!

Two accidents at the factory are mentioned in the papers. Moody's foot was crushed when a 60 pound weight fell upon it, and Ralph Souders had a close call when the machinery was started when he was



Tile factory

seated on a belt — a practice about which he had been warned repeatedly. He was carried into a large fly wheel but the engineer saw him in time to stop the machinery before he was fatally injured. Ralph was unconscious and it was feared that he had internal injuries but he recovered.

In the spring of 1905, the weight of so many "green" tile and bricks in the drying shed caused the old building to collapse. A large shed was rebuilt and manufacturing took place for three more years. The plant again needed remodeling and rather than go to that expense, Mr. Moody closed it down. This was in 1909 and Mr. Moody's health was bad so the plant was allowed to go to pieces. In 1914 after Mr. Moody died in 1912, the place was sold to A.N. Kerns, who tore the buildings down and built a home on part of the site.

The razing of the tile factory left a great hole which filled with water and in winter this pond froze over and was used as a skating pond. And in spring — well you could always tell when spring had arrived by the frogs who raised their voices in a chorus in the evenings.

In the 1940's, townspeople became tired of the looks of the junk yard that had grown up just this side of the creek at the north entrance to the village and requested that a new place be found. Sherman Parrish, who then owned the tile factory land sold a part of it to the village who filled up the pond with junk. While it was sometimes obnoxious, it was better than the former site. A few years ago the state passed a law that closed up any junkyard that could not put four inches of dirt over the junk and garbage deposited in a day.

The village was forced to close it to public use. Now everything is hauled to the landfill at Monticello, a privilege that is paid for by the township. Leach disposal picks up garbage and trash once each week, a service that is paid for by the individual user of the service. Some people take the trash down themselves. However, the village does use the old dump for burning brush and tree limbs, especially after destructive storms.

### BLACKSMITH SHOPS

Today, the blacksmith shop is a business of the past. There are few work horses in this day of tractors, but blacksmith shops were a very necessary business when horses were the mainstay of the farm work and were also used for travel. In bad weather horses had to be shod because they were inclined to slip and fall on ice just as people are. They also needed shoes if they traveled much for the protection of their feet. The blacksmith shops also engaged in the repair of machinery and things of that nature.

There were two blacksmith shops mentioned in items of DeLand. One was the Dillavou shop on the east side of the block that is now the park later owned by Bickel. The other was one owned by Richard Tilson that stood first on the west side of the creek in what is now Gantz' timber south of DeLand. This blacksmith shop was really the beginning of a potential village there but failed to materialize because the railroad was put in and DeLand founded. Tilson almost immediately moved his shop into DeLand, and placed it on the corner of Highway Avenue (Main Street) and 3rd where the Odd Fellow building now stands. He also





Early Bickel's buildings on east side of present park.

bought the lot across the alley to the west and moved a house onto it. The blacksmith shop remained there until 1889 or 1890 when the corner was wanted for a bank. He sold the lot to the Swigart Brothers who were starting the bank that was to become the First State Bank of DeLand. Tilson moved his blacksmith shop one block north to the corner now occupied by the Kaiser Agricultural Chemicals. In the early 1900's, he sold the shop to Lyle Cathcart who owned it until it burned in 1930.

There seemed to be an occasional change of ownership of this shop between 1889 and 1890 — probably temporary arrangements at the time of the move. At one time it was reported that "Dick Tilson, our accomplished blacksmith traded his town property to N. Courier for his farm. A Mr. Johnson of Leroy will occupy the shop." In 1890 this item, "Tilson and Elder is the style of the latest firm. They have put in a burr (mill) in connection with Tilson's blacksmith shop and are prepared to grind meal etc. at a moment's notice."

Later in 1890, Hollis Fuller bought a half interest in the shop for \$500. Now "Tilson and Fuller."

Most businesses are fraught with some kind of danger. The blacksmith business was no exception. In 1893, Mr. Tilson was injured by a horse shoe he was polishing getting caught in an emory wheel and being hurled into his face. He had several cuts and several stitches but got along well.

At the time of the fire, 1930, other buildings in the area went too. There was a large sales barn (originally built for a livery stable) just north of the blacksmith shop, a garage to the north of that, and a woodworking shop behind the blacksmith shop which Mr. Cathcart used as a show room for automobiles in which he dealt. They all burned. The sales barn had been converted into an implement business. Cathcart sold Chevrolet cars and International Implements.

Cathcart decided not to rebuild. He sold the site to L.E. Kallembach who rebuilt the blacksmith shop but on the lot north of the original one and ran the business for 31 years retiring in 1962.

The lot on the corner north of the shop was occupied for a time by a filling station and it was succeeded by the DeLand Phosphate company. The blacksmith shop was razed and today that area includes the

Kaiser plant, a township shed, and the Marathon Oil Company which has an installation there.

The Dillavou blacksmith was the northernmost of the buildings that burned in 1888. The building was rebuilt and stood until 1916 when Miss Bondurant bought these lots, and donated the entire block for a park. Some Bondurant cornerribs had stood on the west side of the block and they, too, were razed. By this time there was little need for a blacksmith shop and Dillavou did not set up in business elsewhere.

#### THE DELAND CREAMERY

A creamery was one of the farm related occupations that should have been a success but wasn't. It was suggested several times in the 80's and 90's that a creamery would be a good business for DeLand but it wasn't until 1903 that the idea was considered seriously. In that year the outlook for a butter and cheese factory was favorable and a Chicago firm was proposing to put one here. It was considered to be a good opportunity for both the townspeople and the farmers. So a corporation was formed and shares sold. This was in late September. By the end of October all the shares had been sold and the contract closed. The stockholders met at the Wigwam and elected a committee to purchase a site and contract for the building. They hoped to have it running in ninety days. By March 11, 1904, the DeLand Creamery was advertising for drivers for their cream routes — the drivers to furnish their own teams. A year later on Feb. 10, 1905, the proprietors were complaining because the farmers in the vicinity were not selling their milk to them. The creamery had worked up a good butter trade but could not fill their orders because of lack of cream.

In September of 1905, the creamery was a thing of the past.

"The failure was no fault of the institution or the board of directors. It was up-to-date and produced the best butter to be bought in the state, but it was not properly patronized by the public, some of whom predicted its failure from the start and seemed to vie with each other in an effort to verify their prediction."

In September of 1905, the Creamery Package Manufacturing Co. of Chicago purchased the creamery machinery and shipped it to Chicago. The building was sold to the village for a calaboose (jail). Many people — all the farmers and many people in town kept a cow or two which furnished milk and butter for themselves and neighbors. Most also raised poultry so they had their own eggs and chickens for eating. The community was pretty well self-supporting and such things as creamery butter and cold storage meat and eggs were looked down upon. Wouldn't

those people be surprised today if they could see our freezers loaded with frozen foods!

Some citizens of DeLand kept cows on purpose to sell milk to their neighbors. The writer recalls several — Mrs. Margaret Ammann, Ellis Reeds, Sherman Parrish, Roy Parrish, L.H. Robinson and John Muir. The earlier ones required you to furnish your own container and come after the milk. Later ones bottled the milk and delivered it. Then came the time when raw milk was considered unsafe, and the stores began carrying pasteurized milk furnished by neighboring dairies. That ended the era of neighborhood sales. Various creamery companies sprung up and the farmers began selling their cream to them and their milk to milk companies that came through the country and picked it up. The Beatrice Company of Champaign was the most important buyer in DeLand. But the time came when even that era was past. Few farmers now bother with cows and like the townsfolk buy these commodities at the grocery store. Milk is shipped in to such companies as Meadow Gold and Holland and delivered over a wide area in refrigerated trucks.

Eggs come from afar (the law now requires that they be candled and graded) and dressed poultry in the stores come from as far away as Louisiana. The days of the dairy and poultry farms in this part of Illinois is indeed over.

#### HARNESS SHOPS

Everyone who owned a horse needed a harness shop to buy and to repair harness be he farmer or townsman. They were common in the early days. Jim Gessford, the long time merchant of such wares has already been mentioned as has J.L. Reed who preceded him in the Corder building. Others were Barry Meeks who occupied a building in the park area — which one is unknown. His sign was interesting. It Read:

"Bury Meeks, Harness maker"

A Mr. Marr also sold harness. Location unknown.

#### WAGONS, IMPLEMENTS AND WOODWORKING

These businesses were of importance in the early days because sending away for such things or going to another town to buy them and getting them home was expensive and unhandy. Mr. J.E. Bickel, who had come from Germany not long before he came to DeLand, had learned wood-working in the old country and continued the craft here. His prime work was on wagons and carriages which were in demand. Before Bickel came, Mr. Merry had a woodshop in what is now the park. When Bickel arrived in 1877, he rented Merry's shop until he decided whether he wanted to remain here. When he decided to stay, he bought the shop and was at this





Bickel implement building built on site of Vail building.

location when the park area buildings burned in 1888. Bickel set up business in his barn at home until he could rebuild, and he retained the site until Miss Bonduant bought it for the park in 1911.

Mr. Bickel, who sometime in the early 1900's had taken up the new and upcoming implement business decided to continue that occupation in another location. Early in 1914, the Vail building on the corner across from the park to the northeast had burned. Mr. Bickel bought this site and built a modern brick building for his implement building and ran it with his son Harry until his death. Harry continued the business for some time. When the estate was settled the building was sold.

Jim Trigg ran an appliance store there for some years. The present occupant is Madden and Trigg insurance. Jim Trigg oversees that and also has a casket display room in the rear since he is the local undertaker. Later the locker plant was added to the rear of the building by Howard (Brickey) Dresback.

The owners of the locker at the present time are Louis Kallembach, Jr. and Karl Ray Norton. Since they butcher meat and freeze and sell it for farmers as well as some townspeople, this would certainly be a farm related industry.

Mr. John Bickel was noted for his caskets which he made as they were needed. It was almost the turn of the century before the town had a regular undertaker. There seemed to be a hearse in existence before that. People were not embalmed then and so there was no need for a trained undertaker. When Mr. Bickel had finished with the casket, Mrs. Bickel lined it and at one period in this time, the girls of the Methodist Epworth League took over the task of lining the graves with white muslin and sprigs of evergreen. So while funerals were not then the fine affairs of today, the dead were laid away with much thoughtfulness, love and tenderness.

There were several other wood working shops in DeLand in the early days including one ran by Mr. Van Vickel, a local carpenter, who had a small shop on the main street just north of the railroad and on the property of the Lumber Company. Fred Haines, too, was a woodworker. When the Bowher garage was built, a small building was moved to the back and south facing 3rd Street which Haines used.

(I think this had previously been used for the same purpose). Later Haines had his shop behind the Tilson (Cathcart) blacksmith shop. Haines previously had done woodworking in the Bickel shop. Gaylord Madden is today's wood worker. He makes beautiful furniture in the basement of his home as a hobby.

After Mr. Bickels death, Wilson Webb and son, Clarence, took over the selling of implements in a brick building which stands at the corner of Main and 4th. Garages also occupied this building -- D.A. Headlee for one. But today it is vacant.

#### TURKEY AND GOOSE FARMS

Most farms in Goose Creek township raise grain. A few also feed cattle and hogs. But interest in farms raising fowl developed about 1914. Interest in a goose farm stemmed from such a farm in the Mansfield area. Frank Morgan decided to try it. Where he got the geese, the paper does not say but they came in on a freight and were unloaded at Combes Switch. Threr were 1800 of them which Morgan unloaded and marched like a small army several abreast in a 16 foot wide column down the road for a quarter of a mile to his farm. There he put them in a pasture, fattened them for several weeks and shipped them to eastern markets. People who saw them march down the road found it an unusual and interesting sight.

Mr. Wm. Doss had a turkey farm at one time on the farm where Donald Huisinga now lives. Most of the turkeys were housed on the west side of the road and were a colorful sight for person passing by on their way to Monticello.

#### AND A BEE FARM:

For many years Willard Smith wholived south of town raised bees as a sideline to his farming. He started out in 1919 with one hive. Found it interesting and profitable. So he built up his business and by 1929 he had 35 hives of three tiers each and with glass sides. He sold honey and beeswax and made wax figures by molds. He displayed these here and there and won many first places for his displays at the State Fair each year. He continued with this until he moved away from here in the fifties or sixties and may have continued it afterwards. He is now deceased. Willard was a director of Kentuck school for many years and sang in the Plowboys Quartette, a group of singers from the Kentuck Neighborhood who were very popular.

#### DELAND HAD AN INVENTOR

In 1911, Louie Bollenbach was successful in securing a patent on an attachment for a cornplanter. It was a very simple contrivance which could be attached by two bolts to any corn planter so that the driver

could raise his marker with the same operation of lifting the planter shoe without getting off the planter. It weighed about six pounds, was strong and durable (the inventor claimed it would outwear three planters) and it could be attached in a few minutes He hoped to sell it for about \$4. Mr. Bollenbach who had been working in J.E. Bickel's blacksmith shop for about six years planned on spending part of his time making the attachment although he would sell the patent if he could get a sufficient price and then take a royalty on the sale and manufacture.

How this all came out is unknown. He later moved away from here and there was no follow-up in the newspapers.

#### NON-FARMING BUSINESSES

In the block of Highway avenue between Railroad avenue and Second Street, there were early business establishments, some of which have been mentioned. On the west side of the street were the Porter grain office, the Langdon post office building, the Rinehart general store, the Bickel wagon business and woodshop, J.E. Reed's harness shop, and Dillavou's blacksmith shop. All but the first two were consumed in the 1888 fire. The Rinehart store was not rebuilt, and the first two mentioned were moved. The ones that were rebuilt later gave way to the park. On the east side of the street at the back of the lot behind the present Manning house was a livery stable, a shop on the same place near the front (part of the foundation is still there between Mannings and Mrs. Rudisills -- a bakery run by Will McBrides in a two story building on the same site as the Carnegie Library of today, and another Livery Stable across the alley where the Jones residence stands. The bakery building was also used as living quarters at times, but other uses are unknown to us.

Livery stables were another much needed business. While the train carried most of the travel business, both Monticello and Farmer City were hard to get to unless one had a horse and buggy. Traveling slaesmen especially, needed a way to get from Deland to those towns as did DeLand people who did not own their own transportation.

Two livery stables mentioned in the 1890's. The location of both are unknown although they may have been the later H.T. Paugh stable.

"Nov. 1895 -- Willis McKean succeeds Frank Merritt in the livery business."

"Dec. 1898 -- Samuel Smallwood sold his livery barn to Mr. Johnston and moved to Weldon."

In 1903 H.T. Paugh moved to DeLand from Monticello, rented the house which formerly stood where Ross Manning's now stands and leased the livery stable behind it from E. J. Edwards who had been running it and set up business.

"Mr. Paugh will be at the service of the public and attend to traveling men bet-





H.T. Paugh's Livery Stable

ween this city and Lodge, Weldon, Farmer City, Monticello, or any intermediate point. Mr. Paugh should receive the hearty support of our citizens, as a good livery barn is a long felt want in this city."

Mr. Paugh ran the livery stable for a number of years. He drove "broncos" mostly and had numerous vehicles for hire. One was a "hack" (with a number of seats which could be used to take several people and was used to go to such things as the Fourth of July celebrations at Monticello; to the Opera at Monticello (the present Community House at Monticello) was the Opera house and took up the space now used by the Allerton Library. They had good and frequent plays there). The year of the Pledger revival meetings in Monticello, Mr. Paugh took a load every night.

There were two other livery stables in DeLand that we know of. Garland B. Eubanks built one in 1904 across the alley and at the north end of the block. It stood there until it burned — believed to be about 1919 although no account of the fire has been found. Mr. Eubank had moved to Iowa but his son still lived here.

The third stable was a part of the sales barn just north of Cathcart's blacksmith shop which burned in 1930.

Had you walked north on Main street on the west side from the Bickel blacksmith shop to the creed in the early 1900's you would have passed what is now the Tribune building, a row of frame buildings housing Gates barbershop, Woodcock's meat market, a small building that may have contained a plumbing shop at the time, the telephone office, a barbershop, Conner's store, the postoffice and the First National Bank. Crossing 3rd street you would have walked past the State Bank, Doc Walker's office, his home, J.N. Rodman's house, and across 4th street — Tilson's blacksmith shop and the calaboose.

Coming back on the east side of the street you'd pass south of 4th street, two houses, a small woodworking shop, the Chamberlain building, 3rd street, three tile buildings housing a hardware store, Hurst general store, Gantz' general store, a frame building housing either a barber shop or a meat shop, Trigg's furniture store, Gessford's harness shop, a doctor's office, and a double frame building housing a grocery store (Dresback's) and Vail's drug store.

These were the buildings that stood there before the fires and one set of their occupants. I shall refer to them as they are above as I recount the other businesses that they had previously housed or that they were afterwards to house. I do not know every establishment that there was, but will list what I do know.

#### THE TRIBUNE

Today's Tribune building was built by Henry Gessford for store and living quarters as has been reported. Subsequently, following Gessford were two general stores owned by a Mr. Highfill and W. E. Adams. Later a Mrs. Morrow had a millinery store there. The bank used it once for a temporary home and the Odd Fellows used it for awhile. It has now housed the plant of the local paper for many years.

DeLand has had a weekly newspaper most of the time since 1896 when the January 23rd county paper announced that a new plant for a newspaper was being placed in DeLand. It was located on the second floor of the new corner tile building on the east side. Storer and Hanley were proprietors. C.E. Storer was publisher and Mrs. G. Hanley editress. The paper was called The DeLand Argus. (We have a dilapidated copy of the first issue at the

library.) It published until October 6, 1896 when it failed to appear one week, indicating that it was in trouble. It resumed the next week but changed management in March of 1897. The new publisher was William West. West's paper didn't last long. On April 18th, the county reporter declared the DeLand paper dead and buried, "Sheriff Ment shipped the press to Chicago as the last officiating rites."

In September of 1897, the Tribune put out its first issue. Said the reporter: "The Tribune is all right, but is too good for the limited field such a paper can cover. The town is all right, too, but not big enough to support such a paper as its people want."

But the townspeople thought otherwise, especially the business men who believed the town needed a newspaper and could have one. When the Tribune also had trouble, in September of 1898 a syndicate of business men bought it and planned on taking turns putting it out. Luther Cox, the station agent, was appointed to be responsible for one year.

In November, the printers went on strike! John Murphy of Monticello came over to help Cox and Dilatush out of their trouble and stayed, moving his family here in 1900. In 1903, J. Bruce Rinehart was publisher and L.W. Watterson, editor.

Editorial of August 28th, 1903: "With this issue, the paper begins its seventh year. We have a cleaner office, a better class of advertising and job work than the institution has ever had. We have worked hard for these things and now we have them. We extend a cordial invitation to the public to come in and see us, and if you are not a subscriber, hasten to become one. We thank the public for its liberal patronage and will endeavor to merit a continuance of the same."

In 1903, they enlarged their reporting area. They began printing news from adjoining school districts and neighboring towns. The news was varied. Not only items were given in the locals column about people visiting and going here and there, but they reported corn cribs completed, someone burying 75 heads of cabbage, the making of 25 gallons of kraut, the building of a pigpen, and the death of a pet cat "Grover" from old age. These in addition to the news about churches, schools, lodges, the town board doings, births, deaths and weddings.

The plant had been moved a couple of times up to this time but the locations could not be identified except "The Tribune" became the local post office.

#### "THE DELAND TRIBUNE"

In July of 1905, J.S. Murphy purchased the paper from J.B. Rinehart, becoming the editor and publisher with his son, Raymond as his assistant. Mr. Murphy kept the paper until his death in 1918. He was struck by a car as he crossed the street on his way back to the office after





The DeLand Tribune about 1910. Mr. John Murphy, editor. Son Raymond — later editor. Notice the motorcycle — one of the first in DeLand.

meeting the early morning train as was his custom. His son became the editor and his wife, Margaret, became the publisher. Raymond's wife Ersie, became his assistant, and several local people have worked there, helping to gather news and doing necessary tasks. Stew Chaney assisted for quite some time.

In 1910, the paper was moved from above the hardware store to its present location. At that time, it had two large glass windows. About 1940, the Murphys gave the old building a new face and the interior was rearranged some and redecorated.

In 1954, after the Tribune had been in the Murphy family for 54 years and associated with it for 61 years, Raymond Murphy decided to retire. He sold it to T.W. and Ed W. Fisher who publishes it today. Sometime along the way, Murphy acquired the Weldon Record, which he also sold to the Fishers.

The DeLand Tribune has a bound file of the papers from 1920 to today. At one time they had a great stack of older papers which they hoped to have bound, but when the last big paper drive of World War II was held, they decided to sacrifice them. The writer of this history later became the local librarian and bemoaned the fact that they did not give the old papers to the library. One day, while putting in a new press, Murphy found boxes of many of the old papers up against the wall. He promptly donated them to the Librarian. She has filed them at the Library and they have been of great help to her in her research for this history. The Library now has the Tribune from 1902 to the present time except parts of 1906, 1908, all of 1907 and stray missing copies. Because these papers are very brittle, she has made a file of her notes from the Tribune and the county papers from 1872 through 1901 which can be used for what most people want. Using the file will help preserve these valuable old papers.

The row of frame buildings on the west side were destined to be burned out — the three northern ones in 1914, the other five in 1926.

Beginning with the Gates building which was separated from the Tribune by a vacant lot was at first a barber shop run by William McBride or at least he is the first



Deland Tribune today and the Firehouse.

we know about. A Mr. Griffith also had a barber shop there and possibly several others before C. B. Gates. Gates added living quarters to the building and installed a confectionery. About 1914 or 15, Dr. T.A. Baumann bought the building and occupied it while he practiced here. He owned it at the time of the fire. Dr. Lowery also had his office and living quarters in the building. At the time of the fire a new restaurant had just opened the night before. The second building was first occupied by John Ammann Sr. with a boot and shoe shop. Ammann was the father of the late John Ammann, grandfather of Irene Honselman and Esther Floyd. He and his wife whose name was Margaret, lived in the house now owned by Clarence and Anora Smith. Other occupations in the building were Mr. Woodcock's meat market and Miss Alda Windell's hat store, Keller's meat market, and Earl Hayes' plumbing. E.T. McMillen had just moved his insurance office into his building when it burned. Earl Hayes had moved his plumbing equipment to the back of the shop for storage until he found another location. They were able to save most of it which was fortunate because he had no insurance.

A small building north of the above building was occupied at the time of the fire by the Pioneer Creamery. It had been used over the years for a plumbing shop, a restaurant, an insurance office.

The Peacock restaurant where the fire started has previously housed the telephone office and John Motherspaw's restaurant. The Motherspaws lived upstairs. After they moved the office, the building was used for a succession of restaurants — Charlie McKinley, Aleck Ahlrich, John Hanrahan and undoubtedly others. The building was owned by Jon Bickel.

A small building between the telephone building and Conners was usually occupied by a barber shop although I believe it was originally built for a millinery shop run by Alzina Marsh — later Mrs. Robert Dillon. It burned in 1914, owned then by C. B. Gates and occupied by Wachob's barber shop.

The Conner building was built quite early and was first occupied by J.H.

Rankin. I suppose there were other stores in it over the years but I do not have that information. I know that there were two families that had their homes in it before Conner established his store. The building was built by J.A. Campbell for Henry Van Vickel who sold it to Rankin.

The postoffice building was erected in the spring of 1889 by T.E. Bondurant. Businesses which had occupied it previously were a drug store run by Elmer Cunningham; the Tribune Office; the First National Bank temporarily and then by D.B. Troxel who moved the postoffice there in 1902. Troxel also had a stationery store, sold school books and in a back room had pianos for sale. Mr. Campbell and J.F. Dresback did the carpenter work on this building.



First post office built by Seth Langdon. Now a scale house on a Trenchard farm.

#### THE POST OFFICE

One of the most important businesses of any town is the postoffice. It is BIG business in our country and good postmasters are essential to our happiness as well as to our welfare.

The postoffice at DeLand was established about a month after the town was laid out. Seth Langdon, the man of many firsts, was the first postmaster. He built a small building in the present park block mentioned before for a store and postoffice. John Vail was the second postmaster and moved the office into one of his buildings. From then on, for a number of years the job was monopolized by these two. Seth Langdon was a Republican and reigned whenever there was a Republican administration. Vail was a Democrat and when a Democratic president was elected, he took his turn. It was a true "spoils" system job. At one time the postoffice was mentioned as having been moved to the Rinehart building. Rinehart was never the postmaster but he may have been the assistant and since Langdon was buying corn it might have been more convenient in the Rinehart store.

Several interesting items showed up in the papers. In 1885 it was announced that the postoffice was out of postcards! It seems that when they needed a new postmaster, the local citizens voted on the candidates if there was more than one. On Feb. 14, 1889, "Quite a lively interest was



taken in the election of a postmaster, Saturday evening, there being three candidates: S.C. Langdon, Etta McFadden and E.S. Cunningham. Mr. Langdon got a majority of one on the 7th ballot."

Feb. 1893 — "Oh, that coveted prize — the DeLand postoffice!"

January 1893 — "The Republicans of this township have concluded to turn the postoffice department of this place over the boss Democrat of the township (Vail), who has now donned the Columbian style of dress with knee pants and big brass buckles." (1893 was the year of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago.)

October 23, 1893 — "Our old time-honored Democratic friend, John Vail, on last Saturday eve just after daylight had faded, marched into the postoffice and in the night time, he and Seth Langdon moved it to Vail's drug store where we now go for our mail."

But in 1897, both Vail and Langdon were out of the postoffice. The position was declared vacant and was yearned for by eight local people. D.B. Troxel was the successful candidate, winning over Miss Frona Bowsher by five votes. The other candidates were Joel Rinehart, J.B. Garver, S.C. Langdon, Amos Dillavou, J. Kimer, and W.H. McBride.

The paper described Troxel as an unmarried Republican about 30 years old who had come here as a lad and stayed with his aunt, Mrs. Moody. He received his education in DeLand schools, was proficient in music having studied a year at Wesleyan, was the leader of DeLand's cornet band and Glee club.

"He is a young man of exemplary habits and good clerical ability and will make a good postmaster." He received his appointment from the government in August 1897.

And he did make good. He was postmaster until his death in 1928. Mr. Troxel married Effie Osborne, the daughter of a local Methodist minister, who stayed on after her father's move to another place and taught in the grade school. They had five children, Moneta, Russell, Shirley, Wilma, and Osborne. Osborne died when young but the other four grew up and were as talented as their parents. They have all made good. None live here. Moneta's married name is Soper.

In April 1902, postal authorities warned that mail not belonging to you was to be returned to the postoffice or you were likely to be fined \$200.

In February of 1902 Rural Free Delivery began. The postmaster was notified that Patrons on the route would begin receiving their mail on March 1st. The local route was 20½ miles in length and was to be served by J.B. Souders as carrier. He had prepared for the work by purchasing an up-to-date regulation vehicle and horse. After two months of rural delivery, a summary was furnished by postmaster Troxel. Total pieces collected and delivered were 8814; Delivered 373

letters, 298 postcards, 885 circulars, 279 packages. Collected — 17 money order applications; 884 letters; 55 postcards; 5 newspapers; 16 packages, and 2 registered pieces. The postmaster urged the patrons to keep roads in good condition and the boxes clear of drifts. It was NOT the carrier's duty to break roads after storms.

In 1903, the routes were increased to two totaling 48½ miles. Willis McKean became the other carrier. On the two routes were 185 houses, a population of 833 and an area of 25 square miles.

In 1914, the post office had a little excitement. They were accustomed to crying dolls at Christmas, and peeping chickens at Easter, but a package that ticked? Fortunately it turned out to be a clock.

On January 1, 1915, D.B. Troxel received his re-appointment. He had recently taken an examination and was waiting to receive the results before rebuilding the building lost in the fire of December 1914.



Inside post office that burned in 1914. Mr. Troxel, Rol Bickel and Mabel Rodman.

In 1917, after the start of World War I, the post office became a recruiting station, and postmasters of the future would be required to take an examination.

The new building, now a restaurant, was finished and admired by a representative of the Bloomington Pantagraph who wrote as follows:

"The stranger who visits the post Office in DeLand is much struck with the neat appearance of the place where Uncle Sam transacts his business. D.B. Troxel, the postmaster, has installed steel office furniture finished to resemble Mahogany. Even the call and lock boxes are of steel. Mr. Troxel and his carriers have developed a high state of efficiency in handling the mail. Mr. Troxel has evolved a system whereby incoming mail is quickly distributed to the boxes and the carriers. Most rural carriers have boxes corresponding to those along the route, but the DeLand men make up their mail on a table which allows them to handle it less and more quickly."

In April of 1928, Mr. Troxel died. Mrs. Troxel had been the clerk for sometime and she carried on as acting postmaster until R.J. Murphy's appointment in 1929.

During Mr. Troxel's tenure, the class of the post office was changed from fourth to

third. He served through Democratic President Wilson's term of office, passing the examination with high honors.

Mr. Murphy was one of three candidates for the job. His appointment was for four years. In 1933 another examination was held and there were thirteen candidates who sought the post; Donna Reid, Pearl Barnes, J.C. Doyle, W.E. Leischner, Leland Chaney, Bertha Turnipseed, Mabel Walker, and James Hewitt were eight of them. Mr. Murphy was not a candidate. The eligibility list for those having the highest grades were Leischner, Mrs. Walker and Doyle. Mr. Leischner was appointed.

Mrs. R.J. Murphy, who had been the retiring postmaster's assistant, remained for a few weeks to show the new postmaster the work. (Mr. Leischner was a farmer and drove back and forth to this work.) When Murphy assumed his postmastership, DeLand was getting mail four times a day by train. After the train service was reduced there were two mails a day and a locked pouch. When the I.C. service was discontinued, two Star routes were established, extending the service to six mails a day.

Ed Leischner was postmaster a little over a year, dying in late October of 1935.

Earl Shannon was appointed acting postmaster until an examination could be held and a postmaster appointed. The candidates eligible for the postal job were announced in April. They were all women: Bertha Turnipseed, Pearl Barnes and Hazel Williams. Pearl Barnes was appointed and served from 1940 till Jan. 1, 1963.

She then resigned and took up her former profession of teaching. Mrs. Henrietta Leischner was acting postmaster until an examination was held and then became postmaster. She still holds the post and Grace Mullvain is her assistant.

Miss Barnes celebrated her 25th anniversary in the post office in 1961. Postal receipts had tripled in those twenty-five years and lock boxes increased in number from 200 to 226. She served under the administrations of four presidents: Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy. She had the pleasure of meeting one postmaster general, Jim Farley, at a convention at Rockford.

Somewhere along the line, the rural carrier routes had been cut to one. With the automobile, one man could handle twice mileage. George Loney was rural Carrier. When he retired, his son Richard succeeded him and is carrier today. Like all the postmasters Pearl remembers the cheeping chicks and often delivered them rather than leave them in the post office over night. She also recalls that about three times a year, she had shipments of bees for W.W. Smith. She also recalls the laundry bags that regularly arrived from students away at school. And one time she sent a rat in a mail pouch to Weldon. She



had left the pouch on the floor and it was dispatched with no warning that the rat had invaded the pouch. The postmaster at Weldon received quite a start when she opened the bag and the rat jumped out.

When Mrs. Troxel left the post office and moved away, she sold her building to Bob Barr for a restaurant. The post office was moved (In the 30's) to the old National Bank building where it is now. In 1960, this building, which is owned by the Masons, was remodeled. Included in the remodeling were lowered ceilings, a change in the entrance, new fixtures and new boxes.

Mrs. Leischner is the wife of E.E. Leischner of DeLand. They have four grown children, all married. Only Edward lives here. The happenings since she became postmaster are the addition of the Zip code, the changes that have taken place because of the new set up in post office management by the government: shorter hours, the closing of the office on Saturdays and fewer mails. On Saturday, the carrier goes his route as usual. Three long time carriers over the years were Al McKean, Charlie Loney and Charlie Conner.

## BANKS

The first mention of a bank occurred in 1888. The reporter inquired: "Why can't we have a bank? Our business men are greatly inconvenienced for the want of one. A great deal of money which properly belongs here, we lose by not having a place to accommodate the depositors while our business men have to do their banking through Clinton, Farmer City, Monticello or Champaign. Not only would it benefit the whole community but also the one engaging in business."

Evidently the agitation for a bank did some good as two years later an item read: "The bank was a failure Tuesday morning owing to the lock being set Monday evening for two days making it impossible to open the safe before Wednesday morning."

This was a bank opened by a firm of Swigart and Son. In 1890 the Tilson Blacksmith was moved from the corner of Highway and 3rd to make room for the new bank. Whether they had temporary quarters while building the new building is not known. It was a two story brick building and was in use until 1902 when it burned.

In 1896 Swigart's sold the bank to John Kirby and Co. with R.B. Moody as cashier. Henry Dilatush also was cashier or assistant in one of these banks. The rooms above the bank were fitted up for the Odd Fellows and other societies. This bank was the beginning of the State Bank. When they decided in 1901 to remodel to have more commodious quarters, they had temporary quarters in the Highfill building. (present Tribune) Remodeling included tearing out the vault to give more floor



Two former banks, now lodge halls and post office.

space and installing a new safe.

On Feb. 14, 1902, the building burned. The fire was discovered at 2 o'clock in the morning. It was believed to have started from a fireplace at the east end. An interesting sidelight — George Hursh, assistant cashier of the National Bank across the street, slept during the week in a room behind the bank. The fire was so hot the firefighters kept wet blankets over the windows of that building to keep them from breaking. Mr. Hursh slept through it all.

The bank set up temporary quarters at the L.B. Hurst store the next day and then moved into the Chamberlain building across the street to the East. The work on the new building began May 1st. It was made of brick, and was two stories each 60 by 24 feet. The east and south sides were faced with dark red brick. The firm moved into it in September. The State Bank continued until 1924 when the bank closed because of frozen assets. The National bank which was in good condition in spite of the depression that year, took over the deposits of the closed bank. The stockholders of the National Bank voluntarily assumed a 50 per cent assessment on their stock to raise the money to liquidate the frozen assets of the State bank.

The National Bank was established in 1901 with Mr. Bondurant as president. The bank building was built on the corner across south of the State Bank. Today it is the postoffice. The Chenoweth building was moved a block north and later razed. The First National Bank of DeLand was completed in October with G.R. Trenchard as cashier and G.R. Hursh assistant. The board of directors included John Kirby, John Leischner, W. Kirkland, I.L. Rinehart, J.N. Rodman, Otto Lubbers, J.W. Warner, and H.L. Gilmore.

The National bank weathered the depressions of the thirties as well as that of 24. About 1936, the company decided to go out of business, and voluntarily liquidated its assets. The National Bank of Monticello took over most of these and there was no loss from its closing. The stock paid out above par. This left DeLand without a bank but G.R. Madden stepped in and opened a currency exchange which was a big help to the community. The currency



Present State Bank

exchange operated for nine years.

In June of 1945 a meeting was held preparatory to organizing a new bank as the community felt the need for one. In July the stock was sold. Permission had been granted by the banking department of the State's Auditor's office. It was called the DeLand State Bank. It had a capital stock of \$30,000, surplus \$6,000 and reserve fund of \$3,000. It was located in the old State bank building and the Madden and Trigg Insurance company which occupied it with the Exchange moved to the present building. Nine directors were elected as follows; W.B. Trenchard, P.E. Fonner, P.E. McBride, H.J. Huisinga, and L.D. Swartz. Gaylord Madden was to be cashier. The bank, having received its charter, opened for business in September 1945.

In 1962, a new modern brick building was built about the middle of the business block on the east side. It contains several conference rooms besides the business part of the bank and lobby and vault. There is also a drive up window. The present capital is now \$54,000; Surplus - 146,000; and Reserve of 6,000. The totals are nearly three and one half million dollars.

Gaylord Madden is president of the board and chairman is Wendell Trenchard. Other members of the board are P.E. Fonner, Neil Madden, Lindell Huisinga, Lyle Swartz, Richard Gantz, and Don Hermann.

Neil Madden is cashier. Joan Manning and Lu McBride are assistants.

## AUTOMOBILES REQUIRED GARAGES

The Smith garage of today was built by Cooper Bowsher and run by him until his death. His brother Cecil was in business with him and continued for awhile after Coop's death. He sold to Clarence Smith who has now been in business for himself there for 34 years. Smith worked for Bowshers from 1919 to 1936. Coop Bowsher also built the building to the south for the local electric light plant.

The Bowshers were the first automobile agency in town. Who owned the first automobile is not known. An item in the newspaper mentioned a young man, but I have been unable to find his name. And Dr. McDeed, who practiced in DeLand from 1904 to 1907 was "noted for his high wheeled Holtzman automobile whose



troubles were numerous." "The horsepower was uncertain, the spark plugs more so, but Mac pioneered with high wheels and deserves the credit."

But interest in automobiles did not really begin here until about 1908. To begin with, people didn't seriously believe that automobiles would ever be practical enough to displace the good old horse and buggy. They couldn't travel in mud or snow of which the area had plenty, and they would always be breaking down. You couldn't fix them with a piece of baling wire as you could a buggy and corn was cheaper than gasoline. Folks laughed and pointed when an auto passed and shouted "Get a horse!"

But by September of 1908, the village boasted four automobiles with good prospects of more before snow flew. The craze had certainly struck DeLand. I.C. Bowsher, George Hursh and Smith Wisegarver arrived in town one Friday almost covered with dust from their 250 mile trip from the factory at Kenosha, Wisconsin each with a Rambler Touring car. Excuses for not getting a car were many, "Can't afford it," "Couldn't run one if I had it." Cooper Bowsher took the agency for the Rambler and after a trip to Indianapolis to inspect the Overland car, took the agency for it also. It was then that he decided to build the garage.

On the site of the woodworking shop he built a concrete building 40 by 60 feet, one story high. The building had many visitors as it went up. It was the first building of its kind both in material and use. Elder and Mansfield did the concrete block work. It was practically fireproof. It was well lighted having several windows including a large plate glass front. There was room for about fifteen cars. He installed a gasoline engine to run a dynamo to generate to light the building and furnish power to run a pump, a vulcanizer, an air pump for filling tires and other machinery that might be added later.

The fifth machine was a Northern owned by Arwine Reed. Later in 1909, three more rambler were sold bringing the total to eight. E.E. Reed, G.R. Trenchard and V.G. Stephenson succumbed to the craze. Trenchard, Stephenson and George Hursh made the trip to Kenosha for these cars. Three experts drove the autos home.

In December, Howard Kahler went to Kenosha to take his Rambler there for repairs. He got it as far as Wilmington on the trip home before the roads stopped him. He left it there until spring.

The automobile fever resulted in the Championship for tennis going by default to Porter and Rinehart. It seems that McMillen and Bowsher, the other team, had not time for tennis as McMillen had automobile fever and he and Bowsher went to Kenosha for another Rambler at a critical point in the game!

I.W. Gantz bought a Rambler in 1909. The writer had her first ride in an automobile when Marie took her Sunday

School class in it to the woods for a picnic.

The Gantz car arrived here after many difficulties. Bowsher and J.C. Bickel went after it. On the road home they encountered mud, ran out of gas four miles from a town and had to walk to get more to get the car into Joliet. By that time they were out of funds so they wired home for money which was sent but they had no identification and the bank there refused them the money. Finally they got into communication with a friend nearby who came to their rescue. They left the car there, came home by train and went back the next week to get it. It had taken a week to get the car here and delivered.

J.L. Parrish bought a Cadillac in June of 1909 which was the 25th car in DeLand. And so the car craze continued. Cars became so common that people no longer rushed to the window to see whose car was passing by. And complaints began to roll in. The autos went too fast (the speed limit on Main street was 15 miles an hour) and they were dangerous. And my how they did roll up the dust! Most of the complaints came from south of the tracks. Autoists began increasing their speed there (just as they do today) and coming into town they didn't slow down until they got to the tracks (just as they do today).

Most of the time until they began oiling the roads and streets, the automobile was useless in the winter time. They were usually put up on blocks in the garage and barn and stayed there until spring. But the weatherman favored the autoist in 1909 and 10. Everyone was able to run his car till Christmas time.



Unloading new cars from freight car — early days.

The first automobile accident recorded was in June of 1909. W.H. Chapin and son Dr. C.W. Chapin of Weldon started to Weldon with the older man practicing driving. He lost control of it and ran into a ditch, plunging so deeply into mud and water that I.C. Bowsher had to be called to pull him out.

The first fatal accident — a Mrs. Swigart and another woman came to DeLand to visit Mrs. John Olson two miles south of town. Clark Olson met them at the train with a carriage. At the edge of town the horses shied at an auto and ran. Mrs. Swigart panicked and jumped. She was carried into the home of L.B. Hursht where she died.

A building built by Wilson Webb for an implement business after Mr. Bickel died has also been used as a garage. It stands at the end of the block north of Smith's but is vacant now. Adolph Headlee once had a garage there.

A two story frame building which stood for years just south of Smith's garage was known as the Chamberlain building because it housed a general store run by a man of that name. It was built in 1877 by a Farmer City woman. Mention is made of a milliner or two who had shops in it. The upper grades of the grade school were housed in the upper story for awhile in the middle 80's because of crowded conditions in the one room school and the State bank was housed there following the 1902 fire. Someone also said that it was one of the buildings where they held school following the grade school fire in 1904. It stood vacant for many years though used some for storage. Smith tore it down in 1943.

Across the street from Smith's to the west is the Rigg's grocery. This building was built by Fred Dresback after the fire destroyed his grocery in the Vail building in 1914. It has always been a grocery. J.H. Dresback followed his brother until his death and was taken over then by his son Richard. Dick ran it until he entered the army during World War I. His wife Maxine took over the business until after he was killed in France and for awhile afterwards. She sold it to Ellis Leischner and went to New York to study music. The Rigg's — Harold and Margaret have been running it for 26 years.

I believe that Doctor Walker's office, now vacant, was built quite awhile before 1907. Dr. Reid lived in the Walker house and undoubtedly used the office building. Dr. McDeed probably used it and I know that Dr. Marvel did. It may be much older. Dr. Harrison who lived north of DeLand is said to have moved one of three small houses from his farm into DeLand. According to Dr. McDeed's history of Piatt County, that house was still in use in 1931. I have found no one who could identify that house. The Walker office is of the type once spoken of as Smoke house or Summer Kitchens. This building could be the Harrison building.



Dr. Walker's office and Riggs grocery

In the block now containing the bank and the water tower, there were three buildings made of tile like that of the Christian church. They were built in 1895.





E.D. Carrier and T.C. Haggard built the corner building and housed the J.L. Rinehart hardware store to begin with. Most of the time there was a hardware store in the building although when it burned in 1933 it housed Hefner's cream station. No one seemed to stay in the hardware business long. There was a succession of firms including Viva Stephenson, and E.M. Kerns who was also in the contracting firm with his son Arthur. The Odd Fellows occupied the second floor at the time of the fire. They had been in the upper story of the third building but had moved to the corner one because the Masons, who had been there, had bought what is now the Post Office building and moved into the second floor of it. After the 1914 fire the Post Office occupied the second floor while the new office was built.

The middle tile building was built by Seymour Marquiss who sold to Otis Vittum who resold it about 1900 to Lou Hurst who had to move from the Chenoweth building that the National bank was displacing. Hurst had a general store until it burned. He used the second floor for storage.

The third building was built by Dr. Davis for his office. (Dr. Davis had moved his house to a site across the alley so that the three lots could be cleared for the tile buildings.) At first it was a one story building but it was remodeled and a second story added. It housed general stores of Henry Gantz and a man named Fuller; then Gantz and Dewees; I.W. Gantz and by G.A. Keller and others who had meat markets in it. The Swartz meat market was there at the time of the fire.

Just south of the tile buildings was an old frame building that had been used primarily for meat shops and barber

### Majestic Range Demonstration

shops. Seymour Cathcart was one who had a meat market there and he was followed by the Wachob's barbershop who were burned out in 1914. It had been torn down before the 1933 fire.

### THE FURNITURE STORE

The first furniture dealer mentioned was W. F. Kerns who opened a furniture store in the old one room schoolhouse which had been moved to the corner of Main and Fourth after the new frame building was built. He had evidently been in business before that date as he had just received a new spring shipment when he moved in. Mr. Bondurant, who owned the building, moved it to the middle of the block just north of where the State Bank sits today and just south of the tile buildings. He remodeled it and put in a glass front, and painted it outside and papered it inside.

In July of 1892, Mr. Kerns sold his stock to Henry Cobb. About the same time, Mr. Cobb decided to go into the undertaking business and purchased a "fine hearse and is now prepared to do practical undertaking on short notice. This was something badly needed as the old outfit was hardly safe to be used at all." Who took care of the previous burials is not known except that Mr. Bickel made the caskets.

Sometime between 1892 and 1902 — probably closer to the latter date since George Trigg bought a house on East Third St. for a residence and moved in from the farm — Trigg became a partner

in the furniture and undertaking business with Cobb. Mr. Trigg took a course in undertaking and year later he bought out Cobb and became sole owner. He retained his business until his death in early 1933. His son Charles continued the undertaking business and was followed at his death by his son James who is DeLand's and Weldon's undertaker today. Thus the Trigg family has been in that business for some 70 years. Another son of George, Ivan, also followed in his father's footsteps. The schoolhouse-furniture store was destroyed in the 1933 fire shortly after George Trigg died but the building was used then for storage so the content loss was not great.

The paper at the time of the fire reported it to have been the old Hackberry school which I believe to be a mistake, as I understand it, the Hackberry school was west DeLand and was moved to the corner two miles west of town from its location at what is now Trimble's lane and became western. It was the Bondurant school that was moved into town.

Mr. Trigg ran his business with imagination. He advertised regularly and he often came up with gimmicks that called attention to his business. For instance, once he put a jar of beans in the window and offered a prize for the nearest guess as to the number of beans. 327 people made a guess. Miss Minnie Hayes guessed 1821. The number was 1815. She was awarded a handsome decorated floor parlor lamp. But the affair that received the greatest amount of interest was the annual Majestic Range Demonstration. A representative of the company came for a week and during that time citizens were invited to the store to see the range and eat



the biscuits with hot coffee that was made on the range. Nearly everyone came at sometime during the week and the kids all turned out in full force on a special evening after school. Usually a couple of pictures were taken and everyone had a good time. And Mr. Trigg sold stoves!

Mr. Trigg also loved a good joke. Lately I have heard a story of one demonstration week. Tom McMillen came in to eat biscuits and enjoy a cup of coffee. Someone hurriedly filled a syrup pitcher with linseed oil and substituted salt in the sugar bowl. But the joke backfired. Tom consumed the gastronomical delicacies without blinking an eye and never let on that a trick was being played on him.

Mr. Trigg was interested in his customers and went to great lengths to serve them. When Mr. A.A. Reed built a new residence, Mr. Trigg made a trip to Chicago with him to pick out furniture and carpets for the new home.

Mr. Trigg had three sons and two daughters. Charles and Ivan were the undertakers and William a dry goods merchant for many years. Eva married Ray Mathews and Irene married Gene Sparrow. Charles married Lola Bickel of DeLand. They have a son, Jim and a daughter Charlene Turnipseed of Champaign. Jim's wife is the former Elsie Crosby. She and his mother assist in the two undertaking businesses since Charlie's death in 1962. The funeral parlor in DeLand had recently an addition made to it. It has a lovely air conditioned parlor where many funerals are held. They have made a name for themselves because of their skill in making the person look natural.



Brick buildings today.

#### NEW BRICK BUILDINGS

After the fire in December of 1914, steps were taken immediately to rebuild the buildings. Arthur Kern and his construction company received a contract for putting them up. The building to the south was built for Mrs. Morrow for a millinery store. She sold to Lynn Williams who started a bakery there. Lynn had it most of the time until 1934 when it burned. A firewall between that building and the next spared the other five stores. Williams did not rebuild and for years there was a concrete lined hole that had been the

bakery basement.

After someone fell into it a fence was erected, but it didn't add to the appearance of the business district. Finally, several years ago, James Richardson bought the lot and rebuilt the building. It has been occupied by several persons since including Shirley Fisher, Beauty operator; Dick Loney, T.V. Store; and possibly others. At present E.E. Leischner has an office there for the Roosevelt National Life Insurance Co.

The second building from the south is now the Ace Plumbing Supply Co. Before that Marlin Miller had a plumbing store there. And before that for about fifty years, Bill Trigg had a dry goods store there. Shortly after the return of Doc Fonner from World War I who bought back his former store, Bill became his partner and opened the drygoods store in what is now the laundromat. Later on, he moved to the 2nd store building and they started a confectionery in the center building. After they sold the confectionery called the Powder Puff, Trigg and Fonner parted company — Trigg taking the dry goods business and Fonner the grocery business. Trigg retired about three years ago.

Before Trigg took the building it was occupied by John Motherspaw with a restaurant, and A.N. Kerns with a confectionery and odds and ends store.

The third building was occupied first by Seymour Cathcart's meat market, Trigg, Oakley Bros., a woman from Kenney, Amlong and Robert Barr, before becoming a laundromat. I believe there was a pool room there for a while.

Fonner started the store in the fourth building between 1915 and 1917 when he was called to the army. He sold it to Jesse McBride but bought it back as soon as he returned. He retired in 1945 and sold it to George Harris. It passed from Harris to Murl Meyer, then to Vance Guffey and then to Bill Ted Webb.

Bill Ted sold out and the building was vacant for awhile. Mrs. Guffey had a dry goods store there. Now Henry Franklin has an antique shop there.

The building that Fonner occupied and the one now a laundromat were both built for John Conner for a grocery and then sold to Fonner. Until the antique shop was put in, the building always housed a grocery.

The fifth building was built for D. B. Troxel for a postoffice, and the postoffice continued there until 1929 when Mrs. Troxel (after her husband's death) sold it to Robert Barr for a restaurant. It has been a restaurant ever since with considerable change throughout the years. A few of those running the restaurants were E. E. Leischner, Howard Dresback, Lynn Parrish and Dick Smith, Lee Williams, and Mary Lu Norton.

The present owner is Betty Cox (Mrs. Harley Cox) of Monticello. They have

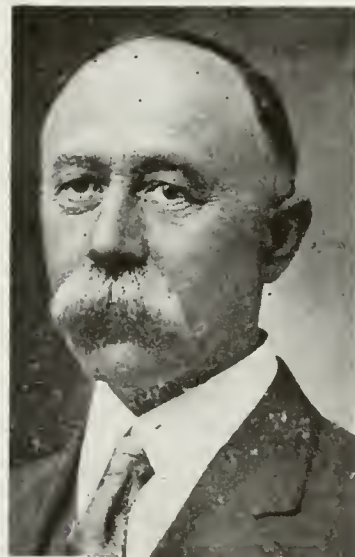
remodeled the building and are now adding a dining room that for parties or Sunday dinner will seat around 50 diners. It is a pleasant place and they serve good food. I hope it is patronized enough that they will keep it.

The sixth building was built for Wachob for a barber shop. He was followed by Sidney Tapscott, James Hewitt, Benny Burnett, Howard Chaney and then for awhile was used by Jim Trigg for storage space for appliances. A few years ago Louis Kallembach, Jr. established "The Attie" for an art and antique shop.

Lucille Vaughn also had a beauty shop at one time in the back.



Inside W.G. Trigg's dry good's store. Bill and Helen Baker, clerks.



D.B. Troxel — postmaster.



Jake Adams on his dray.





J.Q. Carter — lumberman.



George Hursh — banker and S.S. Superintendent



Mr. and Mrs. John Bickel — implement dealer and mayor.



Clyde Porter — grain dealer and Library trustee.



Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Garver — Civil War Veteran.



Parley Gantz and Sonny Sprinkle.



Dr. Wood



I.L. Rinehart — early general store



J. Murphy — editor



Claude Jones — evangelistic singer



Chas. Loney — evangelist singer, minister and postal carrier.



Rol Bickel — evangelistic singer



Mr. and Mrs. Vail — one of first families to come.



Moneta Troxel Soper — missionary



Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mulvain — present supervisor.



Mr. and Mrs. George Loney — rural carrier.



## FACTORIES

Factories have been few and far between. Besides the Tile Factory and the Creamery in the early days, there was talk of an adjustable harrow factory. Rumor had it that a company had been formed known as "The DeLand Harrow Company." This was in the paper of Feb. 24, 1877 but was never mentioned again. Evidently it didn't even get off the ground.

In 1904, the editor suggested a corn husk factory. The only use that I could figure out for corn husks were mattresses. Many people used them. They filled the ticking covers with cornhusks - preferably broken ones, just as you did when making a feather bed only you used husks instead of feathers. They weren't like inner spring mattresses of course but surprisingly, they were not uncomfortable, especially if you were used to them.

The corn husk factory was only a suggestion and must not have interested anyone, for it, too, was unmentioned again.

There were the bakeries, the wagon and carriage shops, the woodworking shops that might be called factories but they were one man concerns.

Also unmentioned again was Mr. Bollenbachs corn planter attachment. Whether he made and sold any is not known.

In the 1920's we had two factories — a garment and a medicine factory.

### MEDICINE FACTORY

The medicine factory — The Shapley Drug company — was set up in 1924 in the rooms behind the First National Bank (now post office). It made stomach medicine mainly and employed a number of people. They made other products, too. Dr. Baumann once had a display of ten products made by the Shapley Co. They were: Shapley's Original Stomach medicine; Unguetum; Camphoratum Eczema Remedy; Shapley's Handy corn plaster; I-Heal-a tone, the master antiseptic; I-Heal-a-tone foot powder; Commensense Polish; Shapley's liniment for man or beast; Shapley's Liver tonic tablets; Shapley's kidney and liver pills. With all that in town, I wonder why we needed doctors!

The Commensense Polish interested me. I have seen a bottle of this polish for furniture and it was called "Raven's Polish" and had a picture of a raven on the label. I was told that it had a horrible smell!

The Shapley's company came here in August of 1923 from Decatur. It moved both its office and laboratory to the rooms above the bank. They came because they thought expenses should be lower here. The townspeople were enthusiastic. They believed it would put DeLand on the map. Late in September 1923, they sent out their first mail from here, a circular sent to several towns.

Late in 1927, it was announced that the Shapley company would move back to Decatur. It had been granted permission to sell more stock but it was doubtful if enough local stock could be subscribed to keep it here. By that time the bank had been moved across the street and the drug company occupied all of the first floor. It moved soon after its announced intention to move.

### GARMENT FACTORY

The Elite Garment factory was established here early in 1926 by an out of town firm. In April, subscriptions were being taken towards the new factory and amounted to \$4,000. The Shapley company moved downstairs and the garment factory was installed upstairs. It employed several people and made women's dresses.

In December of 1926, there was a change a management. The Company had plenty of orders but were not getting them out on time, and some of the orders were cancelled. Mr. Heinitz of Chicago bought out the interest of Mr. Stuhlman and things were picking up.

But by 1928, the garment factory failed. A group of business men under the leadership of P.E. Fonner tried for awhile to keep it going, thinking the community needed it. But in June of 1928, it was sold to satisfy a judgment taken by the First Nation Bank.

There have been no factories in DeLand since then until recently. When the old Township High School was sold after the new DeLand-Weldon High School was built, Joe Crawford bought it and installed the Quality Water Co. They process bottle and ship distilled and ironized water.

Other businesses in the town today are: The Fisher Trucking Co.; Joe's Service Station, and garage; Becker Trucking Service; (Live-stock hauling;) DeLand Motors (garage). This garage and Joe's service are on the hill on route 10.

This account of the businesses in DeLand is lengthy but names most of the people who have been in business here. The following lists the names of those whom I have omitted and those whose location is not known.

I have omitted the names of butchers. I am sure there were several after folks began to give up the home business and let custom butchering take its place. The only name I have is that of Sherman Parrish who for many years did custom butchering on his home grounds on the tile factory site.

There were general stores run by Rennet and Sackett and E.M. Stone. Drugstores were numerous. Mentioned were Andy McMillen, G.W. Corder, Mr. Day and Harrison and Wood. Hardware stores were owned by Salem Kesler, Morris and Haggard, Chamberlain, Highfill, Conklin, Keighan and Goodman. The hardware

store most frequently mentioned was that of Morris and Haggard who seemed to have been the second hardware store following that of Salem Kesler. They dated back to 1875. The paper mentioned them as follows:

"Our busy little village can boast of something few others can, that is, of having a first class hardware store. Messrs. Haggard and Morris of Chicago are both young men, but the manner in which they throw the hardware around, one would naturally suppose they well understand their business. We believe that people of this vicinity should patronize such a store, especially one located at home."

And again — "Messrs. Morris and Haggard certainly deserve great credit for putting up those beautiful little stoves. Isn't it pleasant to warm by them these frosty mornings?"

Hotels and boarding places were numerous. John Mulligan ran the St. Nicholas hotel — but where? R.B. Moody's house was a rooming house. Where would a stranger stay today if he was marooned here now?

Hermann Cressmer was another boot and shoe merchant. Mrs. Berkly and Miss Dillman sold hats; Lou Lee was a dressmaker; George Race sold meat. Joe Rankin and Cobb and Kesler had ice houses. They cut the ice from the river in wintertime and packed it in sawdust until summer. Doc Fonner had the first refrigerator in his store.

Businesses I have not mentioned because they were seldom on Main Street are carpetners, painters and decorators. They include Frank Griffith, Aritis Foster, George Buchanan, Cletus Dalton, George Kuder and B.W. Swanstrom, and Henry Gessford.

Beauty shop operators, a later business that came to the fore with the invention of the permanent wave — possibly in the late twenties — include Lucille Vaughn, Evelyn Wood, Betty Williams, Shirley Fisher, Marie Pittman.

So many businesses — one can scarcely believe it. So many people who have entered our gates to give us the essentials and the comforts of life. We salute them all including the clerks that have received no mention.





## DOCTORS

DeLand has had a number of professional people but to my knowledge no lawyers. The teachers, the preachers, some missionaries, and singing evangelists, the librarians, the doctors and the dentists. Most of these will be mentioned with the schools, churches, etc. but the doctors were a class by themselves.

With the passing away of Dr. G.S. Walker in 1962 the era of DeLand doctors came to an end. If you become ill now, you go to a doctor in a nearby town and in between spells and doctor visits you doctor yourself. That was what the pioneers had to do as doctors were few and far between and had little training. Some of the pioneers had picked up a knowledge of what to do for some diseases but most of them were ineffective and the death rate was high. The survivors lived because they were rugged people. But they doctored with their knowledge of herbs and sometimes with their superstitious beliefs. Many of the children died when young. With the swamps and mosquitoes it is surprising that the death rate wasn't higher.

There were few doctors in what is now Piatt County when the earliest settler made their home here. When John Haworth arrived he found "Dr. John", a Kickapoo medicine man on the site of the Monticello cemetery. He doctored Mrs. Haworth for pneumonia with a poultice. The first white doctor was a "herb doctor" named Terry. The first doctor in Piatt County after it became a county was a Dr. Hull who owned the John Leischner farm in this township but lived in Willow Branch. He was the first qualified physician and arrived in 1838.

There were doctors in Goose Creek Township before the founding of DeLand. Dr. William Ward lived on a farm about a half mile north of the village where he farmed and prescribed for the sick. He was here until 1874 when Dr. Marshall Harrison bought his holdings. Dr. Ward created quite a stir when he fell in love with his housekeeper, wife of his farm hand. The husband started suit for alienation of his wife's affections and Dr. Ward was not long in leaving the community. This was probably the first scandal in Goose Creek Township.

It was a house from the holdings that Doctor Harrison bought that may be Dr. Walker's office.

Dr. John Harrison joined the State Medical Society when its membership was quite small, and he attended the meetings of a Society that was in Clinton in the 1870's. Dr. John Wood was a pupil of Harrison (in those days, doctors learned from older doctors by apprenticeship) but both were hit by the medical practice bill of 1877. They went to Keokuk, Iowa to a medical school where they received their diplomas. Dr. Harrison moved to Bushnell, Illinois where he

taught in a medical school, then went to LaPorte, Texas.

Dr. John Anderson Davis was the first doctor to locate in DeLand. He came in 1873 soon after graduating from the University of Michigan. From 1877 to 1885 he lived at Homer, Pennsylvania in order to care for his aged mother, but returned here and stayed until 1899 when he moved to Farmer City. Dr. Davis married Mattie (Martha) McMillen. They were married in Champaign in 1874. They were the first couple of DeLand whose wedding was in the papers. They had six children. Dr. Davis, too, belonged to the medical Society at Clinton. He was a good family physician and had a large practice. He was the doctor who was said to have tried to move the cistern.

The next two doctors did not stay long. Dr. H.S. Saylor, Jr. of Cerro Gordo came in 1877 but soon moved to Indiana. Dr. John Gardner came in December 1878 but shortly thereafter moved to Farmer City.

Most early doctors were rugged individualists and made an impact upon the community in which they practiced. Such a man was Dr. John Wood, as was Dr. Davis. Dr. Wood, tutored by Dr. Davis, worked with the latter while he remained in DeLand and bought the Davis practice. In 1877 Harrison, Davis and Wood all attended school and Mrs. Wood taught school to help her husband get through school. She was a colorful character. An interesting story is told of their wedding. It seems that Sarah had been reared by an uncle who had not long to live and knew it. He wanted to see his ward settled before he died. He approved of Dr. Wood and a date had been set for the wedding...Sad to relate, when the day came, it was a funeral that was held. But knowing her uncle's wishes, at the end of the funeral, she and the doctor took a place at the head of the casket and were married by the same pastor who had conducted the funeral.

Mrs. Wood was the first teacher in the village school after it was moved to town in 1877. In 1894 he sold out to Dr. Loren Reed and a year later moved to Champaign, staying there for six years and then moving to Louisiana. He returned to DeLand in 1911, bought a drug store with John Vail for a partner. He later sold the drug store to Dr. Walker and moved back to Champaign where he died in 1915. He was ill before he left DeLand. One day on a hot summer day, he closed the drugstore early and disappeared. When he had not returned by supertime, Mrs. Wood became alarmed and called for help. Search parties searched throughout the night but he was not found until the following morning when the Whetzel girls who lived where the Kingsboroughs live now, went after the cows pastured in the Wilson timber. He was lying asleep under a tree.

Mrs. Wood died in Champaign in 1921. While in DeLand she had been active in

church and social affairs. She wrote poetry and on almost every important occasion of the church, she had a poem ready to read during the service. The only poem that we have of hers is a very long one written when she received an invitation to a party at Dr. Reid's. The poem described her reaction to the invitation, her struggle to get their clothes together for the occasion and what went on at the party. The poem is too long to publish in its entirety but the latter part of it is as follows:

"Some guests went and others came,  
You see, the hours were not the same.  
I whispered low in Doctor's ear,  
'We'll see it through since we are here.'  
The guests were leaving very fast  
As by the clock 'twas ten, half-past.  
But doctor said, 'We won't go yet,  
Perhaps we'll more refreshments get.

Soon all were gone, and yet we sat  
And talked of this and talked of that,  
Trying so hard to keep awake  
While waiting for more cream and cake.

Then Donna came with candle light,  
And sweetly said, 'Do stay the night.'  
This I thought would never do,  
And yet we stayed till after two.  
And when at last we reached the door,  
The hands on dial said 'twas four,  
So now the last goodnight was said  
Was soon at home asleep in bed.  
P.S. And we didn't get any more cake  
and cream!

Dr. Reid was an Ohio man but received his medical education in Washington D.C. He married Donna Chapin in DeLand in 1896. They had one daughter Hildred, now Mrs. Faurest Borton of Monticello. Dr. Reid was never very strong, and when it came to riding or driving a horse through mud or snow as doctors in those days had to do, he found it very discouraging. Once the horse ran away. He couldn't stop it, so he guided it toward a tree, grabbed a branch and hung on while the horse ran from under him. He moved from here to Fairmount, Ill., then Bridgeport, Connecticut where he died in 1906. His widow and small daughter moved back to DeLand and lived with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chapin, until their death. Mrs. Reid continued to live in the Chapin house (now Hall's house) and took an active part in the community, especially the Woman's Club. She was very talented in directing plays and almost always directed the many plays that were put on in the village in the first quarter of the century. She moved to an apartment in Monticello for awhile, but after a long siege in the hospital, returned to DeLand and spent her last days with the J.L. Bortons. Her contributions to the community have been great.

Dr. Replogle of Cerro Gordo was supposed to locate here according to Dr. McDeed's history, but little is known of him. Dr. Charles Smith was here from 1897



to 1901 when he and his wife, the former Hattie Gantz of DeLand, whom he had married in 1899, moved to East St. Louis where he practiced until his death in 1905.

Dr. Carleton Booth came to DeLand following his graduation from medical school in 1901. He was followed by Dr. L.L. Steiner (Louie Leo) who was a bachelor and very popular. He related one experience in deep snow. He made a trip to the home of Jurko Lubbers four miles south of DeLand one Thursday morning, found himself marooned by drifts and didn't get back home till Friday evening. He was here from 1909 to 1914, when he left to study eyes and ears.

Dr. Winfield McDeed practised in DeLand from 1904 to 1907 and was considered a very good doctor. He was noted chiefly for his high wheeled Holtzman automobile whose troubles were numerous. The horse power was uncertain, the spark plugs more so, but Mac pioneered with high wheels and deserves the credit. When he left DeLand he went to Mount Sterling and thence to Monticello where he practised many years. Dr. McDeed enlisted in World War 1 and while in army training, he received training in X-ray techniques (a new thing then), which became his specialty.

Dr. L. M. Marvel located here about 1904, stayed for four years and then sold out to Dr. Walker and moved to Weldon.

Dr. Barton followed Dr. Steiner. He was not here long. When he left in 1916 he entered training in Chicago, specializing in eye, ear, nose and throat diseases. He moved from Chicago to Kelso, Oregon.

Early in the 1900's Dr. Lawrence Smith came here from Chicago and opened an office above the State Bank. He stayed three years. He was a brother-in-law of Harry Bickel.

Dr. Theodore Baumann came to DeLand following Dr. Barton's departure after finishing his internship. He was well liked as was his wife and stayed until 1925 when he moved to Rockford. He recalled one snowy night when he was called to the country (in 1917). He traveled in a sleigh and on the way back his horse became exhausted from fighting drifts and fell. Dr. Baumann froze his hands trying to help the animal. He finally got help and came through the ordeal all right. He and Dr. Walker were here during the flu epidemic and went through a trying time. When Baumann left, no one replaced him so we were left with one doctor — Dr. Walker.

The last doctor in DeLand and the one who stayed the longest was Dr. George W. Walker who came here in 1907 and stayed until his death in 1962. He came here from a medical school in Chicago and had an office in the Knisely barber shop building. In 1908 he bought out Dr. Marvel's practice and moved into the little building that is still called "Doc Walker's office." About the same time, he bought Dr. Wood's drug store and moved it to his office building. He married Miss Mabel Robinson, who

was teaching here (she was a native of DeLand, a daughter of L.H. Robinson). They had two daughters — Katherine Lyons of Indiana and Miss Geneva Walker, now of Champaign.

The Walkers were active in the Christian Church and the doctor was intensely interested in politics and public affairs. If you'd like to see a dead ringer for him watch the little doctor in Gunsmoke. He always makes the writer think of Doc Walker. He is about the same size and build as Walker was, walks very much like Walker did and even his manner of speaking and his voice is similar. Dr. Walker didn't always talk much but once he got started he was full of ideas and stories.

His biggest triumph was his handling of the typhoid epidemic among school children in the 1930's when he pulled some fifty or more through the disease, and lost only one case.

In 1957, he celebrated his fiftieth year and was given a gold pin by the Illinois State Medical Society. In 1957 he was chosen head of the Piatt-Dewitt Health Unit.

In 1962, while on his way home from Paxton where he had taken Geneva who taught school there, he had a collision with another car at a cross roads and was injured fatally, dying a few days later.

DeLand has since been without a doctor.

## DENTIST

We know of only two dentists who had offices at DeLand. One was a Dr. Phillips who was here around the turn of the century and Dr. Vernon Cultra who was here for several years coming about 1915. He had an office over the State Bank. While here he married a local teacher, Lella Krepps. Dr. Cultra was a brother of Bess Cultra Rinehart — Mrs. Bruce Rinehart — and came here from Onargo where the Cultra family lived. When he left here, they settled in LaGrange. So far as I know he is still alive. Mrs. Cultra died two years ago. The doctor is retired.

I believe that sometimes there were dentists and eye doctors from neighboring villages who occasionally came into the town for a day or two at a time, making their headquarters in an office or store. And many people went to Dr. Foote at Weldon, which is what we do now, of course. Go out of town.

## FIRES, FLOODS AND FREEZING FLURRIES

The ringing of bells or the blowing of whistles in the middle of the night is a sound that has always struck terror in the hearts of the human race for it probably spells a disaster of some sort. In the early days of DeLand it was bells. One each at

the Methodist and Christian churches and one in the school house. The sound of all three ringing together, got everybody out of their bed in a hurry.

DeLand has been the victim of many fires, so many that the town's growth has probably been affected by them. However it has been fortunate that some of them occurred at a time that they could be replaced, and the new ones have been more substantial than the old. The original buildings were mostly frame buildings and at one time the village board recognized them as a fire hazard and passed an ordinance that new buildings were to be of something more fire resistant. As it is, three of the burned buildings were built of tile and one of brick!

Fires were reported in the early papers but usually they were country homes or barns. The first major fire in DeLand did not occur until 1888. At that time, there were several business buildings along the east side of what is now the park. A general store, run by the Rinehart Brothers, sat about in the middle of the block. On the night of Tuesday, November 1, 1888, a fire broke out in the shed at the back of this store, and by the time the fire was discovered, the alarm given, and citizens with their buckets began to arrive, the building was a sheet of flames and rapidly spread to the four businesses north of it — sparing the postoffice and the grain office to the south. Rinehart's entire stock of goods was destroyed, Bickel's carriage and wagon shop with his accounts and notes., all of Dillavou's blacksmith tools. The only one to save anything was Reed who had a harness shop there. Losses were partly covered by insurance.

The victims were soon all prepared for business again. The blacksmith shop and Bickel's carriage shop were immediately rebuilt — Bickle setting up quarters in his barn until the new building was finished. Reed moved into the Corder building on the east side of the next block and Rinehart moved into the town hall (the former postoffice building) until spring. Commented the correspondent, "in point of energy and enterprise, DeLand can't be beaten, even by Chicago!"

The second big fire was a spectacular one, as elevator fires usually are. It took the first elevator in DeLand, which was built by Moody and Rodman in 1881 but had been sold shortly before the fire to Tyler Co. of Chicago. It stood approximately where the 1968 elevator now stands. Late in December of 1892 between the hours of 5 and 6 a.m. the elevator was discovered to be on fire and although the alarm was given promptly, the building was completely destroyed. The loss was from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and George Wisegarver was the only man to have insurance on his grain stored there.

Two interesting sidelights — the Catholic Priest of Bement came here to hold Mass, but when he saw the fire, he limited his service to a few minutes and



then dismissed his congregation with instructions to go help save all the grain they could.

W.J. Fleming, who lived in the house across the street, expected the fire to take it and moved all his household goods, even the carpets, down the street. After the fire, he had the pleasure of moving them back.

On the Sunday morning before August 24, 1893, the alarm of fire was sounded and before the sleepy villagers could be aroused two large double cribs of small grain and one of corn was burned. Half of the small grain was saved after the fire was put out. Location of these bins is unknown.

In June of the next year, 1894, a major fire was averted mainly because of a group of young men were loafing up town. About 11 o'clock, as they sat in front of the Rankin Hotel on the west side of Main Street, they heard a noise, investigated it and found smoke coming from under the Dewees and Fuller store. (location unknown). A number of people were on their way home from a church festival and a fire brigade was soon formed. The lines extended from several wells and the fire was soon under control although the flames burned through the floor and ignited some of the stock. Damage from smoke and water was heavy.

Eight years went by before the next fire in the business district. At 2 a.m. one morning in February of 1902, the State Bank building burned to the ground. It was of brick and stood where the building replaced it — now the Odd Fellow building. The fire was believed to have started from a fireplace in the east end of the building. The contents of the Modern Woodman Hall above it were destroyed, but the records in the vault were uninjured. The bank officials set up temporary headquarters in the L.B. Hurst store but moved them in a day or two to the Chamberlain building across the street to the east until the bank could be rebuilt. It was nearly covered by insurance.

The schoolhouse was the next disaster. The fire broke out early in the morning on an August Sunday of 1904. This was a frame building of two stories (four rooms) built in the middle 1880's. The total loss was estimated at \$5000 with \$3,000 insurance. All kinds of theories were advanced as to the cause, many believing that it was spontaneous combustion from the coal that had just been put in. School began on the date planned but in temporary quarters here and there in the village. A contract was let immediately for a new building to be ready by the first part of 1905. This building was the brick building recently abandoned and torn down by W.B. Trechard who bought it when the new high school was built and the grade school was moved to the old Township High School.

In 1914, there were two large fires. Early in the year, the two room store building owned by John Vail on the present site of

Madden and Trigg's Insurance office, was leveled by fire. One room was occupied by a meat market (it was originally the Vail and Wood drug store) and the other by a grocery owned by Fred Dresback.

It was believed that the fire started from mice chewing on a box of matches in a storeroom. Flames were already breaking through the south walls when Frank Goodman, who was passing by, discovered the fire and sounded the alarm. People responded quickly but there was a shortage of buckets brought to the scene so the buildings could not be saved. For a while, the fire threatened buildings across the street to the west but a recent rain had left things soaked enough to save them. Winds blowing toward the south necessitated watchfulness to roofs clear to the south edge of town and the library and Bickel's implement shops had to be saturated with water because of falling burning brands.

In December of 1914, Conner's grocery and living quarters, the postoffice and a barber shop fell to the flames. The postoffice also housed a music and bookstore run by D.B. Troxel, the postmaster. These were frame buildings on the west side of the street just south of the National Bank (now the postoffice). The other framed buildings south of the little barber shop were quickly emptied of all furnishings, as everyone expected the entire block to burn. However, the fire was stopped by pushing the barber shop into the flames with large timbers, and pouring water down the side of the telephone office by men who sat on the roof, receiving the water from a line of men who passed the buckets across the street from a well there hand over hand and up a ladder to them. Plate glass windows in several stores were cracked and some fires started on other roofs, but were quickly doused with water by men who were watching closely. It was a bitterly cold morning and the fight was a hard one. The fire started when Mr. Conner built a fire in the kitchen stove. It had evidently been smoldering in a faulty flue and burst out when he built the fresh fire.

The space left by the burned out buildings was rebuilt the next year with six brick buildings and the frame buildings to the south were repaired and painted and moved back into.

In late 1918, the lumber yard and depot burned. It was believed to have been set by an arsonist although there was no proof. A passerby later reported that he saw a light from a flashlight or a lighted match for an instant as he went by, but thought little of it and did not investigate or report it. No reason could be found for arson unless it was sabotage by a pro-German and that was unlikely. There had been two or three barn fires that were believed to be arson and if they were, people believed the lumber yard was set by a firebug just to see it burn.

It was a spectacular fire as burning brands drifted over town and many spectators speedily returned to their homes to watch their own roofs. However, they could do little to stop the blaze but it had been discovered in time for spectators to help carry out considerable of the store's stock and records from the depot. The stock and buildings were owned by J.Q. Carter, C.J. Porter, and L.M. Cathcart. Carter had been running it for fourteen years. He estimated the loss at between \$25,000 and \$30,000. J.Q. Carter rebuilt and strated up the present building and business.

W.S. Elder had a concrete building block shop in one of the Lumber yard buildings and lost all his tools and machinery. The loss on the depot was estimated at \$1500. The railroad officials immediately set up two box cars to serve as depot and freight station until a new depot could be built. DeLand had been trying for some time to get a new depot. The old one had shortly before been enlarged and remodeled. Now the citizens hoped for a better one — preferably a brick one. But the company repoded with the present building, which was much better than the original one ever was.

About this time or a little later — possibly 1919, the Eubanks livery stable burned to the ground. We have never found an account of this fire but know that it did cause window breakage in some of the neighboring buildings including an east window in the Library across the alley to the west.

It was inevitable that the other frame buildings on the west side that were saved in the 1914 fire, would burn. Actually, it was too bad that they did not go in 1914, for they were emptied then and would have likely been replaced with brick structures. As it was, the lots were vacant until the firehouse was built in 1947 after a Fire Protection System had been set up in 1946. These buildings burned in 1926, and took four buildings including two restaurants, an insurance office and a cream station. The fire started in the two story building in the middle of the block where the Peacock family lived and ran one of the restaurants. The fire was believed to have been caused from defective wiring. One of the boys discovered the fire, gave the alarm to his family and ran to Smith's garage and brought the chemical fire engine. They ran out of chemical and used all the soda in town but the fire had gained too much headway. The Peacocks escaped with few belongings. The other restaurant in the Gates building, then owned by Dr. Baumann, had just opened the evening before. They also lost nearly everything.

The 1930's were plagued with fires: Lyle Cathcart's blacksmith shop in 1930; the three tile buildings and the furniture store building (the first schoolhouse) owned by the George Trigg estate and the Lynn Williams bakery — one the the new brick buildings on the west side of the street.



The blacksmith shop — one of the earliest buildings in DeLand, stood on the site of the present fertilizer plant. It had stood there for forty years after being moved from the corner a block south. The strong north wind that night caused considerable worry because of flying embers. Both Dr. Walker's roof and the Methodist parsonage roof ignited but were quickly discovered by watchful citizens and extinguished. The tin roof on the blacksmith shop probably held down the fire and saved other buildings. A livery stable to the north and a wood working shop to the rear both burned.

The last fire to involve more than one building before DeLand finally got its water system was the fire on the east side of the street which caused a \$15,000 loss. In November of 1933 a fire started from an overheated stove in the southernmost of the tile buildings occupied by Swartz' meatmarket. It spread south to the Trigg building which was empty except for some things stored there, and north to the Hurst general store and on to the corner building occupied by the Pioneer Cream Co., run by Mr. and Mrs. Hefner. Among his losses was a Police Watchdog and several crates of chickens loaded ready for moving in the morning. Nothing was saved from the meat shop or Hurst's store — not even account books. Hurst had no insurance. He had carried it for years and shortly before the fire decided he didn't need it. Part of the other losses were covered.

The fire was discovered by Edna Hayes, telephone operator when she was awakened by the sound of falling glass. Men of the bucket brigade succeeded in stopping the fire before it got to Jim Gessford's harness shop south of Triggs, and the frame building across the street to the north. The blaze was visible for a radius of twenty miles and attracted many spectators. Fire engines from other towns came to help but lack of water made them useless. The buildings were not rebuilt and the space was used for an out-door show ground and a children's ball park. Part of it is now occupied by the new State Bank and the water tower.

The last big fire up town was the bakery owned by Lynn Williams — the southern of the six brick buildings put up in 1916. It occurred in 1934. Mr. Williams went to the bakery to start his baking for the day and found the fire. He notified the telephone operator and went to the garage for the chemical fire truck. Sleepy-eyed citizens assisted by the Monticello and Weldon fire fighters made a gallant fight but were unable to save the building. However, their efforts and a fire wall between the bakery buildings and the dry goods store owned by Bill Trigg helped to stop it with just the one building destroyed. The walls were still standing and were pulled down but the basement hole remained for years until Jim Richardson bought the site and erected a new building which has housed a number of businesses but is now occupied by E.E. Leischner's Insurance business.

The DeLand Motors on the hill had a fire in 1951 but that was after the town got waterworks and most of the building was saved.

And the Christian church had a serious fire shortly after the waterworks was put into action. James Loney spotted this fire and reported it about one p.m. after church on Sunday morning. The new fire truck was soon there and kept the fire low in the sanctuary so that the walls and even the stained glass windows were unharmed. The fire started from the furnace in the basement and burned through the floor.

To sum up, in the first sixty four years of its existence the dream of waterworks for the village of DeLand was finally fulfilled in the 1940's. Before that time, DeLand had and thirteen major fires in public buildings, several narrow escapes from other, 24 buildings had been leveled and 24 merchants had suffered the loss of thousands of dollars. In addition, there were that many houses destroyed in the village and a number of barns. In the township there were also a number of losses in houses, barns and cornercribs and three rural schoolhouses and the North Church which burned before it was finished. Quite a record. No wonder the town had a hard time growing!

#### AND THE FLOOD CAME

Usually it has been lack of water that helped make news in DeLand, but once in a while it has been the reverse. In May of 1968, too much water made history in DeLand. A series of tornadoes skipped over central Illinois, doing considerable damage especially to Wapella north of Clinton and to Farmer City, ten miles north of DeLand. DeLand escaped the brunt of the tornadoes but got the side effects of wind, water and hail.

Goose Creek, which runs through the village north of the business section, has been out of its banks many times and on a few occasions has really been flooded. But the only time there was a casualty was in the summer of 1924 when Raymond McBride — teenage son of Bert McBride — drowned when he tried to swim across the stream just west of the cemetery. (The McBrides lived in what is now the home of the Howard Bartisons). The family had cows in a pasture that was cut off by the flood, and the lad was going after them. Other boys were with him so his disappearance in the water was reported promptly but his body was not recovered until the next day although the search continued throughout the night. Boats were brought in and lights established along the creek to no avail. Women kept hot coffee and sandwiches on the bank for the cold and weary searchers. The next morning, the body was found close to the road south of town caught on a snag in the stream.

The 1968 flood came on the heels of the tornadoes and was not caused by rains over a long period as they usually were. The cause of all the trouble was a flash flood, which poured eight inches of water throughout the area in six hours. It came down the roadside ditches and across from the deluge that hit Farmer City. A ditch, dug to relieve Mansfield from flooding, empties into the upper branches of Goose Creek and contributed to the flood. It poured down the highway north of town and struck DeLand's "Hill" — the area north of the creek extending to route 10. From there, it poured into Goose Creek and dashed on downstream.

For the first time in history, people living on the hill had water in their basements as it poured across the hill. It crashed into the east side wall of the Jeffery's basement and filled it with water — a basement fitted up as working and living quarters and furnished with antiques. When the wall began to crack, the Jeffery family abandoned the task of rescuing precious belongings and dashed up the stairs getting to the top barely ahead of eight feet of water.

As the water rushed on, it swirled through the Louis Kallembach Jr. house leaving six inches of mud on the floor. Mrs. Kallembach and a fellow teacher from Weldon who was here because the roads were impassable between DeLand and Weldon, rescued what they could and fled. Most of the houses on the hill had water in their basements but the block to the east bore the brunt of it.

As the water reached the creek it spread out north to Roy Mullvain's electrical shop; south on Main street, almost to Smith's garage. Visiting American Legion Auxiliary women were forced to spend the night at the Legion Hall surrounded by water, although the men did succeed in getting the cars moved to higher ground. The Phosphate fertilizer in sacks at the Kaiser Chemical company, washed down the stream polluting the water that ran through the slaughter house, bursting a new addition open and ruining eleven freshly butchered beeves hanging within.

Paul Manning trains horses and had three stabled in Swanstrom's barn. The water was up to their necks and it was impossible to get them out until the water went down some. Then the men donned hip boots and went in after them. Paul was sure that the smallest horse had to swim during the peak of the flood.

The foot bridge to the cemetery washed out, and created fear for awhile that Carl Ray Norton might have drowned. He had supposedly gone to the slaughter house, but actually went on to the cemetery. The bridge washed out while he was on the north side and he couldn't get back right away. The two bridges west on the hard road and the bridge on Main street were all under water as was a fairly high bridge south of town. A bridge east of Lodge had its approach washed out.



For the next two or three weeks it took some roundabout traveling to get anywhere. DeLand's sightseers found themselves on the north side of the Main street bridge and unable to get back across. They had to sit in their cars at the top of the hill till the water went down. There were people still at the high school when the storm struck and Robert Bowen, principal, tried to get there. He found himself marooned between the two hard road bridges!

People traveling on route 10 were stopped at the high school and given shelter. One car containing two women got by undetected and were swept off the road, but someone heard their cries for help and a group of men were able to rescue them. One woman had climbed to the roof of the car and the other was sitting on the door in water to her waist. The boiler room at the school had water but the furnace was not damaged. However, the gym floor had to be replaced.

Water collected on the north side of the railroad tracks a mile west of town and spilled over the rails washing out 500 feet of ballast from under the rails and turning the ties up on end for some distance. As a result, there were no trains for two weeks.

But the amusing point of the evening (and there is always an amusing point in most situations) was at the Baptist church. They were having prayer meeting and some of the youngsters decided to skip the prayers and go to the basement where Everett Maden had gone to put chairs up out of the water that was coming in. The preacher's son was the first one back up. Said he: "You'd better pray harder, Dad. The water is coming in fast!"

While all this was happening at DeLand, similar things were going on in neighboring communities. All in all, it was a gruesome experience — small when compared to the floods we read about. But it was a night to remember!

#### THE MOST INTERESTING OF ALL CLIMATES

Wind, rain, snow, sleet and hail! You never can tell what the weather is going to be in this most interesting of all climates. One year there may be a drought, the next downpours of rain with wind and hail, and in wintertime there may or may not be severe blizzards or light snow or sleet storms. A few times wind or sleet has struck the area doing considerable damage and great discomfort. It may be hot in the summer or cold in the winter, but with it all, the weather is, on the whole, an invigorating climate in which to live.

Tornadoes are frequent in Illinois in spring and summer and sometimes they come uncomfortably close to us. We have been lucky in that we have not had a tornado that really tore up the town. However, we have had a number of storms that took down trees, power lines and did some damage to buildings. And three or

four times there have been tornadoes on the outskirts of the village that damaged farm buildings.

In late June of 1885, a heavy windstorm passed through town. The only building damaged was the Union church which was moved ten inches off its foundation. Strange to say, it was considered to be the best built building in town! Damage was estimated at \$400.

In July of 1890, another church was damaged by wind. The people of South Prairie neighborhood north of town had built a church known as the North Church about three miles north of DeLand on the Farmer City road. The church had already had one batch of hard luck. It had burned before it was finished and was being rebuilt. It had not been turned over to the trustees when the windstorm blew it off the foundation and wracked it so badly that the trustees believed it would have to be torn down and again rebuilt. However, a contractor from Leroy was able to get the church back on the foundation and braced so that it was stronger than before.

1902 was noted for a windstorm that took down many trees and this has happened innumerable times. In 1919 a tornado skipped up Stringtown Lane northwest of Monticello and invaded the southwest corner of Goose Creek township, damaging the Miner home on the Monticello road.

At that time, two storms met over DeLand, and the downpour that resulted left the streets resembling a river.

There seems to be a sort of tornado alley north of DeLand between here and Farmer City. In 1926, a tornado damaged buildings on farms in that area. About the same thing happened in 1962 and again in 1963. The same buildings on the same farm (belonging to W.B. Trenchard) were blown away twice! There were no injuries. There were so many tornadoes around that year (1963) that the television and radio stations began broadcasting warnings and the sheriffs of each county began sending out warnings to schools and urging drills just in case. And of course the Farmer City storm was the cause of DeLand's flood in 1968. In the spring of 1972 we had high winds and one seemed like a tornado that caused some damage on the west side of the village.

We usually have a blizzard sometime during each winter. Sometimes the weatherman waits until March to let fly all that snow in a brisk wind and that storm is usually a strong one. Once it came as late as May. Much damage occurred in hatches because of the loss of power that went with the storm. But the drifts melted quickly and spring conditions soon prevailed again.

A rain, sleet and windstorm in January 1913 made money for the three blacksmiths in town. They put 229 horse-shoes on local horses. Telephone and

telegraph lines were down, traffic was light, walking treacherous, and automobiles immobilized. Only the lucky fellow with a buggy and well shod horse got about.

The next winter in February 1914, a storm piled up snow 15 feet deep in some places. People and mail carriers were not able to get through, but the latter didn't matter because there was no mail to carry. The trains were tied up for three days. Pipes at the schoolhouse froze and the younger children were dismissed, but the High School and grammar grade students carried on in the Town Hall and the IOOF building. (The IOOF building then met in what is now the Masonic building — where the postoffice is located.)

A similar blizzard occurred in January of 1918. There were no trains from Friday until Monday, fifteen inches of snow drifted from eight to ten feet, the temperature dropped to 23 degrees below zero and coal shortages developed as did a bread famine. Housewives had a chance to test their skill at baking cornbread and biscuits. In some places there was one way traffic for horse cars or team only.

In 1929, snowdrifts again cut off DeLand from the outside world. Cars were marooned along the roads, the roofs barely showing. Trains were stalled and the postoffice had large quantities of Christmas mail piled up. That was in December and it was followed early the next month with another heavy blizzard — this time with rain, sleet and impassable roads.

The most unexpected was the one that occurred in May and affected the hatches.

Generally, we have normal blizzards, that are soon over. We got along with such most of the time in the thirties and until 1945. That year, the snow, which began in November, remained on the ground for 53 straight days. Through January 10th, 20 inches had accumulated. This was due to the intensely cold weather that year.

Worse than blizzards are the once in a while sleet storms that hit us. We have just gotten through with one in 1972 which kept the streets and sidewalks treacherous for nearly three weeks. Some communities were without power for a long period but DeLand escaped that. But we have had a couple of sleet storms that put our supply of electricity out of order for long periods. About 1945, there was a sleet storm on Armistice day that furnished an interesting sidelight. By that time, many people were cooking on electric stoves and some had furnaces run by electricity. It was a cold time for those people. The men congregated at the restaurant and other places having heat. The women either visited friends who had heat, or took to the warmth of their beds and blankets. One group of women decided to make a party of it. They met first at the home of one who had a cook stove, for brunch, then went to



the home of one who had a manually controlled space heater, to play bridge. Each took something along to help with the breakfast. One, as she went out, grabbed her electric coffee pot! Another took along her electric toaster!

But the worst ice storm — the one that really did damage and created hardship was in 1967. An ice storm that downed trees, power and telephone lines, and left all Illinois in darkness lasted from Thursday until Saturday in some areas. Some telephone lines — rural lines mostly — were out for weeks. By this time, gas had become the primary fuel in DeLand and nearly everyone had put in gas furnaces that were run by electricity. Those people who cooked with gas were lucky. They could turn on their ovens and get a little heat. Many people had freezers and everyone had refrigerators practically all run by electricity. Large quantities of foods spoiled — especially on the farms. It was a repetition of a storm in 1964 which was not quite so bad because then many people had space heaters run by oil.

One of the worst features of snow and ice storms in this mechanized world is the roads. State and local men start out at the first sign of snow or freezing rain and even then it is practically impossible to keep ahead of the drifting, and often the roadside ditches are lined with travelers in snowbanks. They are usually taken to nearby farm homes or villages where people open their homes in true hospitality. Schools are often closed because the buses cannot run and if they are closed they are considered "snow days" and made up at the time of the Easter vacation when extra days are allowed for this purpose. This is necessary because the state requires that schools be in session a stated number of days.

Another natural phenomon that occurs in our area is hail. That is something most people view with alarm, especially farmers because of the damage to crops. No disastrous hail storms have been recorded in Goose Creek township, which often accompany windstorms. But one was recorded in 1883 in the county paper, which sounds like a tall tale, but similar hail was recorded in nearby communities so there must have been something to it, even if exaggerated. The item read:

#### "Storm in Piatt County!"

"In Goose Creek the hail storm was huge. Solid blocks of ice fell over four feet thick! John Vail and Doc Wood made hay while the sun shone by storing enough blocks to thoroughly cool those confounded bumblebees."

Similar items reported ice the size of bricks falling in Champaign, seven inches in diameter at Fisher, over two feet in diameter in Sangamon township and over three feet in Willow Branch township!

Draw your own conclusions. One person who read this commented dryly: "There may have been some inflation even then!"

Central Illinois has been subject at times to droughts and wind storms. Fortunately not often except in the 30's, especially 1936 when the farmlands of the great plains that had been plowed up during World War I to plant wheat, practically blew to every corner of the nation. The rest of the country was dry, too, for a number of years. It was a calamity for farm people already hurt by the depression and for those who had respiratory ailments.

Anyway, we don't have hurricanes or typhoons. Thank goodness!

#### BUT EARTHQUAKES — YES!

Only occasionally do we feel the tremor of an earthquake. Yes, California, we do have earthquakes but we hope there will never be any competition. Once or twice in the 1880's, earthquakes were reported and in 1909 two were felt in DeLand. In the early sixties and again late in that decade an earthquake was felt here. The first one was strong enough to sway furniture. All of those felt were very light, very brief and did no damage. Many people did not even notice them but it did make conversation for those who did. These earthquakes are triggered by a fault in the Ozarks of Missouri and Southern Illinois. The only heavy one is said to have occurred in the 1790's but there was then such a sparse population that it did no damage to human beings in the area. If one came now in the same locality, it probably would be different. It is claimed that it could happen again though not likely.

#### EPIDEMICS

While we are talking about catastrophes and near catastrophes we will mention epidemics which in the earlier days were serious. Every winter there was the usual epidemic of children's diseases in the school — measles, chicken pox, mumps and whooping cough. The disease was expected and many people worried little about them even though they sometimes had bad after effects. Some people deliberately exposed their children to "get it over with." Occasionally, it was gotten over with permanently!

But the onslaught of a case of scarlet fever or diphtheria was a different matter. Everyone feared these two. The house in which the victim lived was immediately quarantined with a big red sign that named the disease and said "Keep out!" And the whole family stayed in, food was brought and deposited on the doorstep and the inmates were not allowed out until the disease was over, and the place fumigated with formaldehyde or the burning of sulphur candles. Schools were often closed if there was more than one case. Hooray? No indeed. It didn't mean you could engage in a ball game with your friends or sit and chat with them. The ruling was

enforced. A kid caught on the street was sent home in a hurry.

The writer remembers one school closing when a revival was going on at the Methodist church. The teenagers, who had been singing in the choir were unhappy at missing the services and some of them decided not to. They slipped into the back seats in the League room, hoping that they would not be noticed. But someone did notice and the young people were speedily sent home and told to stay there. The writer was luckier. Because she had had scarlet fever and was considered immune, she was allowed to make a trip to the grocery store but was cautioned NOT TO STOP ANYWHERE. But she did have a chat with her best friend over the width of the yard.

Smallpox broke out occasionally and that meant vaccination for anyone who had not been vaccinated for a certain number of years.

There were deaths from scarlet fever and diphtheria in the early days because there was no vaccine or antitoxin to fight them. The John Cyphers family lost three children in one epidemic.

The first serious polio epidemic broke out in the fall of 1916. Schools were delayed for two weeks in their opening and the first day that pupils were in school, a doctor visited the school and tapped the knee of each child. If he reacted, he was speedily removed from school and was quarantined until it was certain that he did not have polio. There have been a number of polio cases in the community but the Salk vaccine given now to children at an early age has lowered the number of such cases and modern treatment has prevented a lot of crippling from the disease. This is true also of smallpox and children's diseases. They can now be dealt with successfully.

The influenza epidemic of 1918 was a serious epidemic in the entire country including DeLand. Several people died here and the disease spread in spite of the fact that all activities in the community were halted and every precaution taken to check the disease. Vaccine now holds this disease in check, too.

The Typhoid fever epidemics in 1933 and 34 were really bad. About May 5, 1933 an illness broke out among the grade school children which was first diagnosed as stomach flu. When the first report was made in the paper, there were only 36 children in attendance and some of them were not feeling well. Doctors from Monticello, Weldon and the State Health department were called in for consultation. All agreed that it looked suspiciously like typhoid fever. Tests were made on milk and the water in the school well and it was soon definitely established that it was typhoid and that the school well was the source of the trouble. Suggestions were made for purifying the well and it was suggested that it was high time for DeLand to put in a water system. 1933 was one of the years of highwater. The creek



was out of its banks and since it was only a block away from the schoolhouse, it was suspected of being the source of pollution. It may have been partially to blame, but a leak in the sewage system of the school was finally declared the culprit. There were at least forty cases that were diagnosed as typhoid and others that were suspected. School was closed, typhoid shots given and the quarantines enforced. Sporadic cases broke out from time to time for two or three years. The testing of most of the shallow wells found many contaminated and water had to be boiled. They filled up some of the worst offenders. This epidemic along with the numerous fires led, in spite of many difficulties, to the construction of a water system.

A new well was dug at the school and made in such a way that there could be no contamination.

Most of the cases were considered light cases and there was only one death. Dr. Walker worked long and tirelessly through it all and deserves praise for the service he gave.

This was not the first time that DeLand had had cases of typhoid. Cases were mentioned many times in the earlier days and it is probable that the disease had its hold upon the community for many years. Since the water system was put in, there have been no cases.

#### CHURCHES ESTABLISHED EARLY

When a new community is formed, there are certain things that must be seen to immediately. After the three necessities — food, clothing, and shelter are provided, most people think of their spiritual and educational needs. So it was that the pioneers of DeLand began to plan for churches and schools. Fortunately, there was a country school about a half mile north and a little west of the village, so that problem was solved speedily. There were also three other rural schoolhouses where services were conducted — Piatt, Morain and Ashland. There may have been others. The Piatt school in the southeast corner of the township and the Morain school four miles south of the site of DeLand, depended upon itinerant preachers, and ministers from Monticello and other neighboring towns. They seemed to be of no one denomination, serving the entire community although Morain was, for a long time, on the circuit followed by the famous Methodist circuit rider, Peter Cartwright, as was Centerville in Sangamon Township. After DeLand churches were established, preachers from both the Christian and Methodist churches preached at Morain on Sunday afternoons. Both schools had burial grounds close by. Neither school district built a church.

The Ashland schoolhouse was the first church home of the Methodist Episcopal congregation who began to worship there about 1870. Catholics of the community made the trek each Sunday to Farmer

City.

From the first, religious services were held in DeLand. The congregation, made up mostly of Methodist Protestants and Christians, but including a few Presbyterians and Baptists, and sometimes the Methodist Episcopalians (especially in bad weather) met in "The Hall" above Vail's store. Mr. Vail rented out this hall to whomsoever wanted it, which included the church people. The community, as a whole, had festivals, suppers and programs there. Every year they had a program with a huge tree, a Santa Claus, treats, and numbers by both young and old.

During their use of Mr. Vail's Hall, there is only one account of dissatisfaction. It seems that Mr. Vail had given his consent for the famous humorist and facial artist, Thad Varney, to occupy the hall on two evenings to give one of his amusing entertainments. The church people thought that such an entertainment was out of order as they had rented the hall for a certain length of time which had not yet expired. Mr. Vail reminded them that he had rented the hall to them for religious purposes only, and that when they were not using the hall, he could do with it as he pleased. After considerable warm discussion, the church people decided to go home and let Mr. Thad walk in. The article in the paper concluded: "We think they should be willing to give up for a night or two and rest their weary body. Brethern, 'We would that ye should love one another.'"

In 1875, the citizens began talking of building church buildings. The Methodist Episcopal congregation were the first to consider doing so. An effort was made to get funds by subscription but the amount fell short of the goal and the trustees decided to give up the project.

#### The Union Church

The Methodist Protestants fared better. They and the Christians formed a partnership for the purpose of building a Union church. On February 3, 1876, the Methodist Protestants organized as a denomination and the Christian people soon followed. In early 1876, the Union church was built on the northwest corner of the intersection of Indiana Avenue and Fourth Street. It was 28 feet by 45 feet, frame construction with a steeple. Meredith and Roberts of Monticello had the contract to build it, and it cost \$2,531.26. Messrs. Bondurant, A.R. Borton, and R.B. Moody were the members of the committee in charge. It was dedicated on July 23, 1876. The two congregations took turns filling the pulpit, but while each congregation kept its own identity, most of the activities were carried on jointly. At times, the Methodist Episcopalians used the building for Sunday School on Sunday afternoon and frequently joined in the

various activities.

The following is an account of the dedication of the Union church as given in a county paper of July 26, 1876.

"The Union church of DeLand was dedicated last Sunday, July 23, 1876. About 400 people were present. Rev. Ackerman and Rev. Mayall of the Methodist Protestant denomination, and Rev. Maupin, Christian pastor from Farmer City preached dedicatory sermons. The service began at half-past ten o'clock. A subscription was raised to pay off the debt of the church. This leaves about \$200 yet to be raised. The church presented quite a creditable appearance and reflects credit on the energy and enterprise of the people of DeLand. It will add much to the attractiveness of the town."

'They must have had trouble raising the \$200 or some failed to pay their pledges for in 1883 the Methodist Protestants sold a parsonage that had been given them by Thomas Bondurant and paid off their part of the debt. The Christian (or Disciple church) seemed to have paid off their share. (The parsonage sold was the house in which Ted Webb lives.) Said the correspondent: "The relations between the two societies are and have been for seven years very harmonious. May brotherly love continue."

The unity and harmony were destined to continue for twenty years. During that time, the Union church and the Methodist Episcopal church, built in 1880, furnished not only the spiritual life of the village, but much of the social life. There were no automobiles, television sets, radios or movies to take people out of town or keep them at home and if they were to have a social life, it was necessary to provide it for themselves. Each had a woman's organization called the Ladies' Aid (Reapers at the Union church). They had basket meetings and picnics, a Jug breaking (Don't ask me what that was!) Necktie festivals, Sunday School concerts, a singing school, baptism services for members gained during revival meetings (the baptisms took place at the creek south of town), Township Sunday School conventions, fairs, Union Thanksgiving services, Children's Day, Easter, and Christmas programs, donation parties for the ministers, bazaars, suppers, Chicken fries, Epworth League and Christian Endeavor Socials, ice cream festivals — one could go on and on. The community was a busy, lively place. No one died of boredom. On three occasions, the Methodist Protestant district meeting was held in DeLand; the Methodist Episcopal church also hosted district conventions of the Epworth League, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and a convention of District pastors.

Christmas in early DeLand was a highlight. There was nothing commercial about it. In those days, only a few families had Christmas trees, and nearly everyone took presents to the church to put on the





Methodist baseball team



Christian Church



Baptist Church



Catholic Church — now town hall



Methodist Church



Enterprise Church

tree there. The outstanding gifts were listed in the paper. In 1876, Mrs. J.B. Hutchinson received several vases, and several pieces of Queen's ware; Mrs. John Vail received a fine brown dress pattern; Mrs. Haggard — vases; Mrs. Marquiss — vases; Mr. Van Vickle — a box of cigars; Mr. Moody — a law book inscribed "Moody and Gordan, Attorneys at Law". (Mr. Moody was the Justice of the Peace) and to Mr. Bondurant, the town's founder — a "Most magnificent doll baby, which pleased friend Tom amazingly well." Thomas Bondurant must have been a man of good humor for the correspondent in the county paper quite frequently razzed him about something and Mr. Bondurant seemed to take the jokes with great sportsmanship.

Mr. R.B. Moody, affectionately known as "Uncle Bruce," was the Santa Claus for many years. Mr. Moody was a Civil War veteran, a pioneer settler, and a congenial man intensely interested in the welfare of the village, the church and the young people. He had his finger into most of the important activities of the village.

Community Christmas entertainments managed by the churches were the rule for many years. After the Wigwam was built in 1888, they often used it for the event as the seating capacity was greater than that of the churches. They did not always have a Christmas tree. One year they had a Christmas ship. This was something new and a change. The correspondent commented: "Now let the old ship sail in under a strong breeze and heavily laden with presents and tokens of friendship." Later on, one of the churches had a "Jacob's Ladder" and another time, a bell along with a cantatta. On one occasion (1893) the Sunday Schools planted two trees at the Wigwam in memory of the birth of Christ. Music was furnished by the choir and the children, who spoke pieces, marched in drills, and took part in tableaux. A good time was enjoyed by everyone there and the house was always full.

Another annual event in the churches were watch night services on New Year's eve, starting with supper and a social hour followed by a religious service that ended as the New Year arrived. And at Easter time, the young people sponsored a sunrise prayer meeting followed by a breakfast.

Early pastors of the Christian denomination serving in the Union church were: Charles Rowe, S.K. Hallum; F.H. Moffat, Samuel Lowe; R.L. Robinson, H.R. Pritchett, W.T. Moppin, John Lemon, W.G. Springer, J.E. Jewett, Wm. Ingraham, J.F. Stottlemeyer, D.W. Homer, A.C. Keever, S.S. Jones, C.N. Downey, J.I. Gunn, W.H. Cannon, E. Lewis, T.T. Holton, and J.M. Francis who was pastor when the new church was built.

Early M.P. pastors mentioned were Rev. A. McKinley, Jacob Mansfield, Rev. Ackerman, Rev. Whyal, Rev. Maupin, Rev. Tickett (Evangelist), D.B. Turney and Dr. Widney.

The union church had one severe set back. On July 1, 1885, a severe windstorm passed through town. Though it was considered the strongest building in town, the church was the only building damaged. The wind blew it off its foundation but it was repaired and was as good as new. In 1889 the church was repapered and new furniture purchased. There was even talk of buying an organ.

But in 1895, the Christian congregation decided they should have a new church of their own, so they separated from the Methodist Protestants and built the present building. After the departure of the Christian people, the M.P.'s, being fewer in number, dwindled and finally gave up the struggle. The members went into the other churches or moved to Weldon where they had a strong M.P. church. For several years the building stood deserted. In 1905, Ira Gantz bought it, tore it down and used the lumber to build a house on the site. (the house on Indiana and 4th owned by the school.)

### The Christian Church

After twenty years association with the Methodist Protestants in the Union church, the Christian congregation built a new church. By April of 1895, subscriptions for the new church were about completed and work on it was started. By the latter part of May, the cellar was excavated and the building committee had decided to use tile, a new product on the market, for its walls. It made an attractive looking church. At this point, Rev. J.W. Francis resigned and Rev. T.T. Holton took his place. By the middle of September the masonry was two-thirds completed, and by October 31, the slating on the roof was nearly finished. The building was 40 feet wide and 70 feet long with several angles and corners. R.R. Meredith did the carpenter work and Coe and McMillen had the contract for the slate work and tinware. It cost \$6,000. The tilewalls were a light tan color with a smooth glazed finish.

The church was dedicated on January 21, 1896. The sermon was preached by J.H. Hardin, president of Eureka college — a Christian church college. The music was under the management of Elder Bundig of Bement.

In 1911, an addition was built to the west of the Sanctuary for church parlors. The addition included a kitchen and the two other rooms were used for meetings, suppers, bazaars and other purposes besides being used as class rooms. Rev. W.T. McConnell was then pastor.

Recently the basement of the church has been remodeled to serve as classrooms. The church had a room or two back of the Sanctuary that could be opened when extra seating was needed for funerals and other largely attended class rooms, a nursery and rest rooms. These have been

converted to class rooms, a nursery and rest rooms and a library from which the congregation can check out reading material. Some of the women take turns acting as librarian.

According to a church history in an anniversary folder, the Christian church has had two serious fires. We were unable to find the date or extent of one of these, but the fire of January 5th, 1942 was almost a disaster. It was a very cold day. The church services had been over about an hour when the fire whistle blew. The fire was discovered by a boy — James Loney — who chanced to pass by. He saw the smoke pouring from the building and turned in the alarm. The new DeLand waterworks received its first test that day and proved its worth. The fire district had not yet been formed but the men hurriedly hooked up three hoses and poured water on the blaze. They succeeded in confining the fire to the auditorium and kept it low so that only the lower part was destroyed. The fire had started from the furnace in the basement. The seating in the auditorium were chairs of the opera chair type, and the veneer was completely ruined by the water poured upon them. Miraculously, the lovely stained glass windows were not injured. The furnace and other maintenance equipment were a complete loss. The auditorium had shortly before the fire been remodeled. The damage from the fire and smoke in the rest of the building was estimated at \$6,000 to \$7,000.

The trustees met on Monday and made arrangements to hold services in the grade school across the street until the building was repaired. By June, the repair work was done and ready for the new pews of oak to be installed. They had been built to order by the American Seating Co., of Grand Rapids Michigan and a factoryman was sent out to assemble and arrange them. The seats are arranged with a center and side aisles and will seat 190 people.

A re-dedication program was held on June 29, 1942. Services were held both morning and evening. The pastor, Rev. Dean McGrew, delivered a special sermon at 11 a.m. Special music had been prepared for the occasion. Dinner was served in the church parlors. There were a number of former pastors present, and special guests were the men who had worked so heroically in January to save the building. In the evening, the High School orchestra, under the leadership of Harry Merry gave a musical program and Kathleen and Cloyd Hamilton, of Decatur, former members, were present and sang. The building committee, John Remmers, Wilson Webb, and W.B. Trenchard were commended for the beautiful appearance of the church with its installation of new lighting, the gift of the Trenchards.

The Christian church for many years had had a parsonage on the Hill two blocks north of the church. It, too, has had a



number of small fires which, fortunately, were discovered in time to put it out.

There have been several anniversary celebrations. One of the program folders mentioned Mrs. Martha Bondurant and her son, Thomas E., Mr. and Mrs. Joel Churchill and Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Porter as charter members. There were undoubtedly others. At such observances, they always have a period of time when they reminisce and it is always interesting. As long as they lived, Mrs. Charles Marvel and her mother, Mrs. Swisher used their poetry-writing talent and read poems written for the occasion.

Among the pastors of the new church building were: T.T. Holton, W.T. McConnell, L.B. Pickerell, A.B. Jewett, J.W. Keefer, F.M. Stambaugh, F.W. Lowman, Frank Smith, A.C. Roach, L.C. Crown, G.W. Wise, J.M. Ice, L.P. Fisher, P.E. Million, W.P. Morris, J.W. Robbins, Ewart Wyle, J.L. Davis, A.C. Stewart, E.H. Willey, W.S. Scheurman, R.H. Heicke, Dean McGrew, Lyle E. Childs, E.P. Shepherd, Joseph B. Whanger, Everett Thompson, J. Deck, Everett Hughes, Jerry Lewis, and Ronald Self. Rev. Self is the present minister but has resigned to serve a church in Alabama.

Like most churches, the Christian church has some active organizations such as the Ladies Aid (now called Loyal Women), a men's club, a Christian Endeavor, and Sunday School classes which are active socially. These groups not only serve the church but also the community with their bazaars, luncheons and the stands at the Community Homecoming. They have also had several winning floats at that time. At the present, several women make monthly trips to Lincoln to give assistance to the Lincoln Nursing home. Beverly Carter also conducts a "Good News Club" for the local children, and the Sunday School holds a Vacation Bible School each summer.

#### The Old Bible

In April of 1926, this appeared in the Christian church notes:

"We are greatly indebted to the Ladies' Aid for their timely gift of a lovely new pulpit Bible, which they presented the Church Sunday morning. The old Bible, which had become too worn to use, had been given almost fifty years ago by Mrs. Martha Bondurant, mother of Miss Mary and Thomas Bondurant. At that time the Christian and Methodist Protestant churches met for worship on alternate Sundays in the old Union church, which stood a block west of the present Christian church and the Bible was used there for twenty years. At the completion of the Christian church in 1897, it was brought to the new church and has been used here for 30 years. During the service of the Bible, it has been used by perhaps 25 resident ministers and by many others. Only a few of those who were in the congregation at

the time of the presentation have survived the life of the book itself, and there are scarcely half a dozen left in the community."

It was thought for a while that the old Bible might still be in existence. Mrs. Mabel Walker, had rescued a Bible from destruction at the church, had taken it home with her and later had given it to Helen Trenchard. But examination revealed that the book Helen had, had been through a fire. So that Bible is probably the new Bible mentioned above which had been in use from 1926 till 1942.

#### Methodist Episcopal Church

The Methodist Episcopal Denomination began its life in Goose Creek township before DeLand was founded. It was organized and met in the Ashland schoolhouse two miles southwest of DeLand, with J.T. Orr and Joseph Winterbottom as the first pastors. They moved their meeting place to DeLand in 1875, using the Vail Hall.

According to Mrs. J.L. Borton, they met in 1877 and 1878 every two weeks in the Union church on Sunday afternoon. In 1878, they again moved their meeting place — this time to the DeLand (Bondurant) school which had been moved into DeLand from north of town.

There was considerable talk from 1876 concerning the building of a church. Their first attempt to raise money fell short of their goal, but in 1879 they raised enough to start the new church. R.B. Moody, Salem Kesler, J.H. Rinehart, J.W. Cyphers, and Jacob Stultz were appointed trustees, a building committee was appointed and they started work getting pledges toward the building. The frame building built on the site of the present parsonage was built by men hired by the day. Carpenters were J.H. Murphy, and Walsh of Monticello. The building cost \$2250. The bell was paid for from an entertainment given by L.S. Kidd, George Ingersol, Etta Francis, Alzina Dillin and Mrs. I.L. Rinehart. In less than a year the money for the church had been raised and they were able to dedicate it on February 7, 1880. (According to the rules of the Methodist church, a church building must be paid for before it can be dedicated.) Elder Hiram Buck of Decatur preached the dedicatory sermon.

Other pastors during the lifetime of this building were: W.T. Beadles, Deathrage, H.C. Turner, Uriah Warrington, R.D. Choate, E.M. Jeffers, A.B. McElfresh, J.W. Lapham, Peter Wallace, James Burke, I. Groves, F.B. Madden, M.S. McCoy, Thornton Clar, D.W. Brittin, E.K. Towle, A.N. Simmons, J.E. Strevey and E.L. Darley.

The Charter members of the church were: Mr. and Mrs. R.B. Moody, Mr. and Mrs. John Carrier, Mr. and Mrs. I.L. Rinehart, Mr. and Mrs. John Pollison, Mr.

and Mrs. Jacob Stultz, Mrs. Susan Curry, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Rinehart, Mr. and Mrs. Henry McBride, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip McBride, Mrs. Mary Gessford, Mrs. Hiram Dillin, Mr. and Mrs. Benedict, Mrs. Maggie Marsh, Mrs. Alzina Dillin, Mrs. Minnie Bickel, William McBride, J.W. Cyphers, Mrs. Stella Keller, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Cobb, Mr. and Mrs. L.C. Marvel, Mr. and Mrs. John Frizzell, and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob McBride. A few of these Charter members had the privilege of contributing to the five different church buildings in the village — the Union, the Christian, the Catholic and the two Methodist buildings.

According to some of the early pastors: During the winter of 1879, during the pastorate of J.D. Botkin, a successful revival was held with 75 conversions, mostly young men and women. At that time, the DeLand and Weldon churches were a circuit. The pastors preached alternate Sundays at the two churches. In 1883-4, J.W. Lapham raised the money to build a parsonage. This parsonage (now the house in which Ronald Fisher lives) was a two story building "with seven good rooms and a bay window. Mr. Seymour Marquiss and lady, in the goodness of their generous, noble souls, led the van by donating an acre of ground with \$200. Nine others, inspired by this example and the urgency of the case, gave \$50 each. Lesser amounts followed until we occupy one the best parsonages in central Illinois."

"We were just moving into the parsonage" says Rev. Lapham, "when an army of DeLand's BEST precipitated itself upon us. The parsonage was at once unconditionally surrendered and the army of the invasion occupied the entire premises.

"Amid the joyful greetings of captors and captives, it was discovered that the former had an ample and well furnished 'supply train' and that the supplies were mainly for the occupants of the beleaguered parsonage. At this juncture this army of the fair and the brave stacked arms by piling the table and pantry with loads of flour, groceries, canned fruit, etc. There were also 'accompanied cash.' Very soon, full rations of ice cream and cake were issued to all present — soldiers and citizens alike. About two hours were now spent in social chitchat and forming new acquaintances when the invaders retreated in good order and bearing with them our best wishes and followed by our ardent prayers, that 'he who loves a cheerful giver' may abundantly reward them with the riches and grace of Jesus Christ."

I. Groves held a successful revival with about 80 conversions — this time mostly heads of families.

Peter Wallace was here from 1888 to March 1889 when he was appointed chaplain of the State Soldier's Home at Quincy.

During Rev. Madden's pastorate, the ministerial association met here. One of



the addresses was titled, "From Pitch Pot to Pulpit."

(The above items were from Mrs. J.L. Borton's history of the church given in 1916 when the church celebrated its 40th anniversary.)

#### The Methodists Build A New Church

During E.L. Darley's pastorate, the Methodist congregation began making plans for a new church. The trustees at the time were: J.H. Campbell, C.E. Dresback, W. Dewees, H.W. Gantz, D.W. Hursh, M.E. Miller, and S.A. Hassinger. Before the church was finished, T.S. Mitchell became pastor. The contract was let to Mitchell and Co., of Danville. It was built on the northeast corner of 3rd St. and Illinois Ave. The house, which Dick Tilson moved into town in the early history of the Village was now owned by R.B. Moody who moved it to the south part of town. The church was built of a dark red brick and stone and had a slate roof. It was dedicated on December 16, 1906 by Rev. Wm. D. Parr of Kokomo, Indiana.

The building was financed by contributions by both individuals and organizations. I have heard that the Ladies Aid husked corn to pay for their pledge. The congregation sold bricks in addition to other ways of raising money even the children helping in that and so had a feeling of being part of the project. At its dedication, the church was free of debt with enough money left to buy a good piano and some other things. Rev. Mitchell was followed by C.M.M. Fultz, who was followed by C.F. Juvinall. During Rev. Juvinall's pastorate, the old frame church was torn down and a new parsonage built on the lots — using the lumber from the old church. This is the parsonage of today except that they keep modernizing as needed.

Rev. H.G. Beck became pastor in 1914. He and his wife were very popular, and he was still pastor when World War 1 broke out. He volunteered as chaplain and served until the war was over. His wife and two children continued to live in DeLand until his return. Pastors following Rev. Beck were Oscar Jones, Royal Ennis, Robert L. Steed, Albert L. Wood, O.L. Clapper, Winifred Johnson, Karl Krughoff, Kenneth C. Knox, Ralph E. Jasper, Harold Brown, Frederick Carl Stelzriede, Elmer N. Ditch, Donald Walden, Robert Mushrush, Rev. Charles Frandenbug, Rev. Shewhart and Jon Cockerel. The present pastor, Rev. Orin Watson came in June of 1972 from Decatur where he was Associate Pastor of the Grace United Methodist church.

Late in the 1930's, most of the Methodist churches in the United States consolidated and became simply "The Methodist Church" dropping such words as Episcopal and Protestant. In a unification many changes of necessity occur in order to satisfy both sides. The young people's

organization called the Epworth League became the Methodist Youth; the Women's organizations, the Ladies' Aid and the woman's foreign and Home Missionary societies were united under the name Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS). Further Union of the Methodist and United Brethren a few years ago made a further change in name. The word United was added making the denomination The United Methodist church and the organizations, The United Methodist Women, the United Methodist Youth etc.

Concerning the WSCS, the local organization had two divisions — the older women continued to meet as one group and the younger known as the "Guild" as another. But as time went on, the group became and worked as one group. (There was a previous organization called the Guild — a Sunday School class of young adult women organized around 1909 and taught by Mrs. L.B. Hurst.)

#### Epworth League

The Epworth League of the Methodist church was the organization of Young people in the church. It was established nationally about 1889 and there was a local organization from somewhere in the 90's until 1901 when it dwindled in membership. For about a year they did not meet, but in 1902 they were re-organized and were active until their name was changed to Methodist Youth in the late 1930's. When they were re-organized in 1902, they had about 30 members and Rosella Tilson was president. Their activities reached a peak during and for a few years after the pastorate of Dr. Royal Ennis. Dr. Ennis four daughters of Epworth League age and they were instrumental with the help of a few faithfuls in swinging the work along. Often the League room was filled with 65 or more young people and a few older ones. There didn't seem to be the age gap then that we hear so much about today. In addition to their regular activities which covered considerable ground, they conducted an Old Folks Day service at morning worship each October, helped with the evening service, giving occasional musical concerts, and had Gospel teams which presented programs at other churches. One of their regular activities was a monthly social at which all young people were welcome. The young people in those days had fewer school activities than they do now and had to provide for their own fun. There was also a point system in the district and a banner was awarded to the winner at a District convention. DeLand won second place one year and first the next. They hosted the convention several times. There was also a Junior League that met on Sunday afternoon. The Senior League met regularly on Sunday evening.

The Women's Foreign Missionary Society also had departments for the young people. They included Little Light Bearers for the youngest, King's Heralds for the grade school children and Standard Bearers for the teen age group.

During the years following World War II, the membership of the church grew and during Rev. Walden's pastorate an addition was built. The addition is of matching brick and has two floors housing class rooms, the preacher's study, rest rooms and a small chapel. This has allowed the Sunday School classes space without using the sanctuary. The church now has an electric organ as well as the piano and an amplifying system by which chimes can be broadcast from the church tower. Both were given as memorials. The organ fund was made up of a bequest given by a former member and added to by various people in memory of someone. The amplifying system was also started as a memorial fund for Mr. and Mrs. D.B. Troxel who had been active in the music and missionary departments of the church. It was added to by various friends. The amplifying system was dedicated on the 50th anniversary of the church building in 1956. Mrs. John Adams, who had been organist for about 30 of those years played the organ for the services. Her brother, Rol Bickel, the oldest member of the church in point of service was present was John Leischner who had just finished 10 years as Sunday School Superintendent. Three of the Troxel children were present. Most of the anniversary services held from time to time have had a basket dinner at noon, followed by a reminiscing service in the afternoon.

There are now no charter members living. The oldest member living from point of age is Mrs. Ora Holforty. There are several living who helped to build the church. Daisy Bickel Adams is probably the oldest in point of service, since she is the oldest person born in DeLand and began playing the organ as a young girl. Mrs. Roy Mulvain is now organist.

In 1927, an unexpected event took place. Following the election of the Christian church, a committee was appointed to propose to the Methodists of DeLand that they both break off their relations with their respective state and national board and unite independently as a community church. They hoped to demonstrate that they believed in Christian Unity and were willing to practice it. As one member expressed it, "Our aim is to make one church prosper where two never have. Both churches are to some extent wasting their energies in a struggle for existence, whereas, if combined they would direct their energies toward making DeLand and the whole world a better place to live."

At a meeting at the Methodist church, Rev. Lee, husband of a former resident, who worked in such a church, spoke. A committee composed of Mabel Walker, Carter Wisegarver and G.R. Hursh was



appointed to meet with Dr. H.H. Peters, State Secretary of the Christian church and Dr. Havighurst of the Methodist church. They worked out a plan in which continued autonomy of each church was to continue, but that would allow them to work as a unit on local affairs. The plan failed — not because of lack of local interest — but because the higher authority in the Methodist church vetoed it.

In their earlier days and sometimes recently, the two churches (and now the third) often united in such services as the Thanksgiving and Memorial Sunday services. And sometimes in the summer months they have held outdoor services, in the evening the preachers taking turns in the pulpit. Usually they had a combined choir.

Although there have been many changes in the ways of doing things in the DeLand churches, all are still contributing to the spiritual needs of the village — a goal they have had from the very start.

### The Catholic Church

There were a number of Catholic families in DeLand in the early days who attended church in Farmer City. When the roads were bad, it was a difficult trip so they began to think about building a church here. They started out to raise money and found the people of the community sympathetic and generous with their contributions. In the April 12th, 1883 paper, there was a letter from P.N. McGrath — the Catholic pastor — thanking those who had subscribed to the fund. He had obtained permission from the Bishop to build a church at DeLand. They hoped to get the foundation laid by May. The committee authorized to collect the subscriptions was: Thomas and Peter Finnegan, William McInney, H. Hughes, and J. Mulligan.

By July 11th, they had nearly completed the little building to be known as "St. Mary's Chapel." It was a neat, little frame building. If you doubt this, go over to the corner of 2nd street and Illinois Avenue and look for yourselves. It is now our voting place, now known as the "Town Hall." It was dedicated in August 1882. In 1888 the pastor was the assistant priest in Monticello, who conducted 8 o'clock mass there and then came to DeLand to hold services.

In 1897 the number of Catholics in DeLand had dwindled and for several years the church stood abandoned. On June 10, 1897 it was announced that the church would be sold and the proceeds from the sale with other collected funds would be used to build a new Catholic church in Weldon which was a larger Catholic community and of easier access to the priest who then came out of Clinton. It was expected that some other religious denomination would buy it. But no other denomination showed interest, and the Goose Creek Township board bought it and

it became and still is the Township Hall.

There are still a few Catholics in DeLand, but they attend mass at Farmer City or Monticello. They seldom have to worry about the state of the roads.

### Baptist Church

The last church to be built in DeLand is the Baptist church which was started in the early 1940's by Ernest Snodgrass, who held services in his home (where Harold Riggs now lives) and acted as pastor for the Baptists of DeLand and surrounding communities. In 1947 it was decided to build a church in the vacant lot north of the Snodgrass home where there had formerly been a garden. The plan was to dig and finish a basement, the members doing the work, and use it for services until they could afford to build the sanctuary above it. Chairs were bought from the High school which was putting new ones in the auditorium, and the basement room was quite comfortable and adequate for the time being.

But alas, they were not to enjoy it for long. The rains came and like all other basements in the south part of DeLand, it filled up with water and everything in it was ruined. All they could do was to set fire to the burnable parts when they dried out and plow the rest under.

Discouraged but determined, the congregation next bought the old Wigwam site in the north part of town and built a concrete block building to which they put on an addition in 1964. They now have a good sized congregation which is very active. Rev. Charles Neathery is now the pastor.

### The North Church

There were three rural churches in Goose Creek township. In the days of muddy roads in Illinois, rural churches were not uncommon. Better roads and automobiles changed the scene, however, and today this township's rural churches are gone. The three in Goose Creek township were the North or South Prairie church a Union church three or four miles north of DeLand (hence the name North church). It stood on the Farmer City road just south of the road that divides Goose Creek township from Blue Ridge township. The other two were Kentuck and Enterprise churches.

The North church was built in 1889. The people of that area known as the South Prairie Neighborhood because of the schoolhouse a little north of the church but in Blue Ridge Township. Thus the congregation was made up of residents of both townships. Some of these people, after the church was torn down transferred their membership to Bethel church two miles east and a little north in Blue Ridge township. Bethel church still stands

and has an active congregation. People from DeLand were interested in the North church and sometimes attended and helped with activities there. Also, the Methodist pastors sometimes filled the pulpit.

The North church was built in 1889. It was built late in the year, and by May of 1890, it lay in ashes. Almost immediately, the rebuilding began. But disaster struck again. This time, a windstorm moved it off its foundation and racked it so badly that it was thought it would have to be torn down and rebuilt. But a contractor from Leroy succeeded in putting it back on the foundation and bracing it so well that it was stronger than in the beginning. The loss from the windstorm fell on the contractor as the building had not yet been turned over to the trustees.

The church had many activities. Mrs. C.E. Holford now of DeLand is one of the few living members. She played the organ and sang in the choir there.

But the congregation dwindled after awhile and in 1913 its doors were closed. The building was sold to Smith Wisegarver who moved it to his home place north west of DeLand and converted it to a shed.

### Kentuck Church

Kentuck church was organized by Frientje Goken. She came to this area from Germany in 1867 and married John Meents in 1868. The Meents held church services on their farm and later, church was built on their farm. They lived there until 1905. The church stood about a half-mile west of Ronnie Cooke's home. A cemetery was established there and is now cared for by the Township. There is only a lane leading to it.

Kentuck neighborhood was settled by people of German descent. Many of them came here directly from Germany. The church dated back to 1890 when the German Baptist church Society was formed. In 1910, a new church was built on the road near the Coke house. The frame building was 32 by 40 feet with a Sunday School room and an auditorium that seated 200. There was a gasoline light system, a hot air furnace and a finished basement. It was dedicated on November 27, 1910 with three services and a dinner following the morning service. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. J.F. Mills of Decatur and an offering was taken to raise the remaining cost of the building. Miss Josephine Wheeler sang "The Holy City." The sermon in the afternoon was preached by Dr. E.E. Brand, of Springfield. The evening service was canceled because of the bad weather and muddy roads. And all but two of the Evangelistic meetings planned for the following week were also cancelled. The name of the church was changed to the Immanuel Baptist church. Rev. H.F. Armstrong of Oreana was the first pastor. Two former pastors (in the old building) were present. They were Rev. James McClure and Rev. J.M. Lively.



The building committee was Rev. Armstrong, Otto Lubbers, and Scott Henshaw. Mrs. Frank Edwards (Rentja Meyer) served as the first clerk. Other members included Mr. and Mrs. Reempt Lubbers, Mrs. Henshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Jurko Lubbers, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Wilkerson, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Kingston, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Mull, Bessie Doss, Mrs. Dora Meyer and Mrs. Winnie Weets.

Pastors following Rev. Armstrong were: W.E. Sharpes, R.N. Wood, Thomas Bishop, James Leischner, Robert Vance, Floyd Bandy and Ted Keith. Rev. Dish served the longest — 10 years. New members were added from time to time and although the membership never went above fifty at any one time, they were an active and interested group. The church held periodic revival meetings, entertained guest pastors and put on a Christmas program each year.

As time went on, farms began to change hands, improved roads made it possible to retain their memberships in neighboring churches, and death made its inroads. The congregation dwindled and it was impossible to continue, so the doors were closed. The trustees — Seymour Knisely, Aaron Woodall, and Arthur Lubbers were faced with the problem of disposing of the building. There was talk of having an auction, but in 1950 they learned that a newly formed Baptist congregation in Decatur needed furniture. The Kentuck people loaned them their church furniture. A little later, the Kentuck building was sold to the Decatur congregation for a nominal sum. A plot of ground near Lake Decatur was donated and the building was moved there. It was called the Lakeview Baptist church. Members of the new congregation included builders of various sorts, and the work of moving and reconstructing it was done by these people, who donated their work. The church ground in the Kentuck district reverted to the owner of the surrounding land, Robert Shonkwiler. Their remaining funds were given to the Hudson Baptist home for orphans in Vandalia.

So passed the Kentuck Baptist church to continue its service in other communities.

### Enterprise Church

The third country church stood in one of the nine sections in township 20. It was across the road from the rural school, also called Enterprise. The church building was built about 1894 and services were held there until the early twenties — possibly 1923 or 24. By that time it was like other country churches — the congregation was getting smaller and smaller in number. The church was abandoned and stood unused until September of 1933 when it was sold to the Farmer City Christian church. They had just lost their building from fire and bought the Enterprise church to replace it.

The Enterprise church was a frame building seating about 200 people. The last pastor was Rev. Harold Thrall. Rev. Thrall was a Methodist preacher so I presume the church was a Methodist church.

The writer has a vivid memory connected with her one and only visit to the church. Perhaps she shouldn't tell this story, but after 40 years, it still seems too funny to keep. In the 1920's, the DeLand Epworth League of the Methodist Church had a Gospel Team. Occasionally, on a summer Sunday evening, some of the members would go to a neighboring church and conduct the evening service. They took along a leader to conduct the lesson, a song leader to lead the singing, a pianist, and usually, they gave one or two special musical numbers. On this occasion, Olive Mansfield was leader, and Bernice Swartz and I were to give the special number—a piano duet. Neither of us were great shakes on the piano and why we attempted it, we have never figured out. We practiced long and ardently and when the day came, we had it down perfect. Or so we thought! For when we seated ourselves at the piano and started playing it was a different story. In just a moment we were completely lost from one another. Had we had any gumption, we would have backed up and started over. But no, we blundered on. Finally, I simply gave up, whereupon, Bernice ended it with a flourish and with embarrassment, we took our seats. Olive was sitting on the platform and could see the reaction. On the way home we asked: "What did they do? Did they laugh?" "No," answered Olive. "They didn't laugh. They just looked pained!"

### THE DELAND CEMETERY

DeLand has a beautiful cemetery at the northwest corner of the village. It is on the hill lying directly north of the creek and south of Route 10.

Originally, it consisted only of the southwest corner of the plat. As they were needed, the other three quarters were added. Only the northeast quarter is unused at the present time.

The cemetery was laid out shortly after the village was founded. The first person buried there was Grandma Langdon, mother of Seth with whom she lived. Following is the obituary in the county paper of March 21, 1874:

"At DeLand Station, Piatt Co. Ill., February 26, 1874, occurred the death of Mrs. Sallie Langdon, aged 84. She was born A.D. 1790 in the State of New York, was baptised into the Free Will Baptist church in 1815 and has ever been one of the 'faithful'. Amid the infirmities of age, she leaned heavily upon the strong arm of her Saviour and realized that Jesus was her satisfying portion.

"Her funeral was attended by a large procession of sympathizing friends; her remains consigned to the new cemetery adjacent to the village, where she rests in sure and certain hope of a blessed resurrection."

There is little mention of the cemetery in the early days and how it was cared for is unknown. Probably each family cared for its own lot, and someone with a scythe cut the tall grass once in a while in the summer. It was only one-fourth its present size then and was undoubtedly like any other country cemetery. A Cemetery Association (a corporation) was formed in the early nineties and a trust fund set up for its perpetual care. At this time, it was the aim for the earnings from this fund, which they invested, and fees from the sale of lots, to take care of the cemetery. However, in recent years, rising costs have made it a struggle to keep up the work and improvements from the limited earnings, so the trustees, taking advantage of a recent state law, asked that the cemetery be turned over to the township for maintenance and care along with the other three burial grounds Piatt, Morain and Kentuck — in the township. A resolution prepared by Attorney Carl Glasgow who was present at the meeting in 1952, stated that members of the Association believed that it was for the best interests of the Association's property of every kind and character be turned over to the township so that money could be obtained by general taxation for the support and care of these cemeteries. This was brought to a vote on April 1, 1952. The resolution passed and the cemetery trustees transferred their assets to the township. The trustees continued to take charge until an election and \$1500 was levied for the cemetery fund for the next year.

The three rural cemeteries had no means of support. All three were established early in the township so many of the pioneers of Goose Creek Township are buried in them. Piatt Cemetery has the distinction of being the burial place of the only Revolutionary war veteran in Goose Creek Township. Morain Cemetery is on the road to Monticello. And Kentuck is back in a field with only a lane leading to it. I do not think any burials take place in them now. Everett Maden is the caretaker for all four cemeteries and keeps them mowed.

### We Get A Civil War Cannon

Toward the center of the west half of the DeLand Cemetery is a circle containing a flag pole where Decoration Day Services have always been held. I use to believe that there was an "Unknown Soldier" buried there. Whether there was or not, the circle was supposed to honor an unknown soldier from the Civil War. In 1911, through the influence of Congressman McKinley, DeLand cemetery received a handsome



three inch Parrett gun of wrought iron, weighing 900 pounds unmounted. It was a relic of the Civil War and came from the arsenal at Rock Island. It was mounted on a concrete base in the circle in time for Decoration Day services that year. It was considered an ornament for the cemetery and a token of respect for the Civil War veterans. The gun remained there until 1944, when scrap iron drives were held for iron to make armaments for World War II. It seemed patriotic to turn the gun in and this was done — the cannon being a part of 44 tons of iron collected in one drive.



Cemetery scene showing sundial

#### A Two Hundred Seventy-four Year Old Sundial! "Time Flies!"

Few people realize that the small white marker in the northeastern quarter of the cemetery is a true antique. The marker is really a sun-dial given to DeLand for the cemetery in 1924 — a gift of Robert Allerton of Monticello. Following is its history as given in the DeLand Tribune at the time of the gift.

"Sundials belong to the gardens of romance. They tell the hours in churchyards, they are found on the walls of ancient castles, and along the old causeways of England.

"This old English sundial was found in 1650 at Tellrock, near Tinturn, in Monmouthshire, England. It stood on the Wilton Bridge spanning the River Wye at Ross on Monmouthshire Road and was later placed in one of its sanctuaries. It has four faces with the inscription, "Time Flies".

"In 1668, this sundial — a real beauty — was removed to the garden of the schoolhouse and was mounted upon an ancient font brought from beside the church at some former restoration. Then for many years it stood at the famous Maude Heath's Causeway and was later presented to Lady Maude Probert at Bishopstone, Sussex, who died in 1676. Here the four dialed pillar stood until 1773, when it was overthrown by a part of desperadoes, who conceived the quaint notion that treasure was concealed beneath its base. They excavated it and found the spot empty.

The sundial was not replaced, but occupied a neglected corner of a stone-

mason's yard for many years. It was purchased in 1802 by villagers of Waybridge and re-erected at Waybridge as a memorial to the Duchess of York, who died in 1825. In 1890, this, with other garden relics was purchased by the John Wanamaker stores in New York and imported to this country. It was sold to Robert Allerton, who placed it in his beautiful garden where it stood until about a year ago when it was removed to give place to a greater statue. Mr. Allerton was a great collector of antiques and it is a pleasure to this community to be remembered with this gift and its history."



Cemetery scene showing Chapel

#### The Woman's Club Builds A Chapel

In 1924, someone in the woman's club suggested that a chapel be built in the cemetery as a memorial to the soldiers of the first world war. It was to be built so that people from out of town could have a place to rest when bodies were brought here for burial. There was to be a plaque giving the names of the soldiers of World War I from this community and one for the Civil War Veterans. The club would give an annual Home Talent play each November 11th (Armistice Day) until enough money was raised. Mrs. Donna Reid, who coached most of the town's numerous plays, was to coach the plays. Mrs. W.O. Jones coached some of them. Everyone was enthusiastic about the idea. The plays went on year after year except for one or two during the depression and finally yielded enough money with the help of individuals and organizations to start the building in 1936. It was finished and dedicated on Decoration Day in 1938. Addresses were made by Judge Burl Edie, Mrs. J.L. Borton, Mrs. Donna Ried, and Mrs. Lillie Rinehart, the widow of a Civil War veteran.

The tentative list of veterans of World War I given in the paper numbered about sixty-four.

Actually (and sadly), the building was not really finished and has never been used as intended. There is no water or heat or

light, no furniture, the World War I plaque was never made and roof was put on in such a manner that it leaks badly. Only a framed list of Civil War veterans was hung. The building has been used exclusively for storage. There has been talk among various groups of repairing it and finishing it. But fixing the roof alone would cost considerable, as would the cost of water, electricity and drainage of the plumbing. An oil stove could easily be used for heat. Nothing has come of the talk. It probably never will. But it a lovely building as seen from outside and adds to the attractiveness of the cemetery.

#### Decoration Day

Decoration Day services are held each year at the cemetery. The band and the veterans march from the Legion Hall to the Circle. There band music is played, the Invocation and address are given by the local pastors, and the Legion, followed by Auxiliary women, decorate the graves of all the veterans buried in the cemetery. The graves are marked with flags.

This program has been followed for years except in the early days when the first stop was at the Wigwam where a musical program and addresses were given. If the weather was nice, the chairs were often carried out into the grove and the program held there. Then came the march to the cemetery with young women carrying the flowers. This was called Decoration Day, Memorial Sunday was held the Sunday before with the combined churches meeting at one of the churches with patriotic music and a patriotic address.

The DeLand Cemetery is one of the loveliest cemeteries in this area. It is kept up well. And it is dotted with peony bushes, which are usually in bloom at Decoration Day. Visit it then, and you will agree that it is a bower of beauty.

## Biggest Little Town

## on Earth

## DeLand Centennial

1873 — 1973



**Decoration Day Crowd in front of Wigwam**



**GAR old soldiers on Decpration Day**



You have read about the rural schools in the township. The DeLand children learned their three R's in a rural school until 1877 at the Bondurant School about a mile north and west of DeLand. In 1870, the people of District 5 felt the need of a school and built one. The directors at the time were; M.D. Marvel, J.B. Walker, and T.E. Bondurant. They called a meeting for Jan. 2, 1871 for the purpose of choosing a site for a schoolhouse, the kind of fence and out-buildings to build, when they should be built, and to vote a tax to pay for it all. Thirteen people voted on these questions including the three directors. The site was to be 10 rods east of the southwest corner of the SE 1/4 of Section 5, township 19, range 5 east of the third principal meridian. (Across route 10 a little west of the cemetery on Bondurant land.)

The building was to be 25 feet by 40 feet with "anty" room, studding 16 ft. long and the house finished in "good stile". A five board fence with cap and good posts and two privies 4 by 6, and a coal house 8 by 21 was to be built. The school house was to be built in the spring of 1871 with the other buildings completed by October 1st, 1871. The tax issue carried.

Bids were received from various firms and Dickey and Ziegler were hired to do the carpenter work and a Mr. Baits, the plastering. The plastering turned out to be a bad job and payment was held up until it was made right. It was called the Bondurant school. They paid Bondurant for one acre of land.

Some of the teachers in this building were Vesta Terril, Mary A. Brown, Anna Snodgrass, Allen Stults, Elizabeth Holloway, Joseph Van Vickel, Jesse Holm and William Wetzel. Those were the times of spring, summer and winter terms and some of these teachers taught only two or three months. Hence the big turnover of teachers. The older children did not go to school when there were crops to put in or to harvest.

In 1887, it was decided that the school building ought to be in town. An election was called to settle the matter, but before the election, Mrs. J.H. Wood was hired to teach the school at forty dollars a month provided the schoolhouse was moved into town. If the building stayed in the country, she was to have \$45 per month.

An election was held on August 15th, 1877. The questions were: For or against:

1. Moving the school house into DeLand to the east half of block one.
2. Building a new school house near the corner of John Mansfield's land where his and Regnold's and Dellemer's land joined.
3. Buying or leasing land sufficient to make a good sized school yard for each of these school houses.
4. Using the money on hand and due the district to build the new schoolhouse to be known as West DeLand.



First three classes of the DeLand High School — 1895, 96, 97.

All four propositions carried by a good majority. The Bondurant School was moved into town and West DeLand was built. West DeLand was nicknamed and known as the Hackberry School because it stood near a hackberry tree at the entrance to the Bondurant farm, now occupied by Wilbur Trimble. The tree was still there when route 10 was put in and was cut down at that time. District five was divided into two districts. The West DeLand School house was later moved to the corner, and was known as Western School. S. McIntyre was paid \$130 for moving the Bondurant School into town. T.E. Bondurant was to see that all necessary repairs be made when it arrived and they paid him \$40 a lot for lots 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 of block 1. These were the same lots on which the brick school (recently razed by W.B. Trenchard to make way for a new building site) stood.

The county paper heralded the moving of the schoolhouse,

"Sept. 5, 1877 -- Our schoolhouse has started to town, it will probably be here in a few days.

Sept. 26, -- Our schoolhouse which is now in town is being newly plastered and thoroughly repaired for the winter school.

Oct. 24, - The DeLand School will begin next Monday with Mrs. Dr. Wood as teacher."

In the early 1880's, the number of pupils had increased until the little school building was filled to overflowing. The question was whether to build a new school building or put an addition on the old and if a new one was built, should they sell the old.

Twenty-seven voters settled the propositions, they were against all three propositions. So they solved the problem another way. They leased the upstairs room above the Chamberlain store. The contract allowed them to use the two east rooms. The board was to remove the

partition between the two but was to replace it when the term closed. Chamberlain put a partition in the hallway near the west entrance, put hat and coat hooks, and repaired the outside stairway. They paid him \$5.00 a month rent for six months. They transferred the four higher grades to this building for the rest of the year.

At the meeting at which the move was planned, it was resolved that in the advanced department, all pupils would take all seven common branches: Reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, grammar, geography, and history of the United States. All pupils in the fourth grade and above were required to take examinations and make an average of 70. Other teachers who taught before the four room building was built were: Amanda Miller, John Keller, L.S. Kidd, J.G.W. Smith, B.F. Stults, Attie Foster, Mrs. Carrier, Ida Widney, Nina Hale and Wiley Dewees. Some of these taught at the school called West DeLand.

In 1884, the proposal to build an addition to the school was voted down. Also in 1884, G.L. Brown was given the use of the school yard to pasture his cow. What a lawn mower!

In 1886 or 87, the vote for a new schoolhouse carried. It was announced that DeLand erect a commodious school building fashioned after the Monticello and Atwood buildings but with the cloak rooms omitted. It was built immediately and contained four class rooms, but only three were used until 1892 when the High School was established. The building was heated by a hot air furnace. The teachers were James Hicks, principal; Edith Hubbard, intermediate; and Etta McFadden, primary. At first the high school consisted of the first two grades (9th & 10th) taught by the principal. There were no rural children and if one did come, he paid tuition. (The ninth and tenth grades were also taught in the rural schools.) The tenth and eighth grades were required to take a final examination given by the county



superintendent and were granted a county diploma. This continued as long as there was a village school even though the third year had been added. Graduates of the three year course received a diploma from the school itself. The four year course was not added until 1917 when the township high school district was formed.

The first class graduated in 1895, consisted of nine graduates: Nannie Ammann, Frona Bowsher, Ray Campbell, Jessie Dresback, Lizzie Fuller, Maggie Gordon, Maude Kesler, Delta Parsons, Clyde Staley was the principal. Only one is alive today, Jessie Dresback Ennis lives in Champaign. Mr. Porter and Maggie Gordan Adams have died recently.

There was a big crowd at the Wigwam the evening of April 19th, 1895, when the first commencement took place. Enthusiasm ran high as the audience cheered the entrance of seven sweet girl graduates, trembling but triumphant, and two of the sterner sex who scorned to show their nervousness. As the orations (given by each graduate) were finished and they returned to their chairs, they were overwhelmed with flowers sent by admiring friends. Everybody was there; everybody was happy; everybody was proud. As the evening passed into history, from the "Wigwam doors stepped the first alumni."

On the program besides the orations by the graduates were several selections by two quartettes.

Ten classes were graduated from the High School before the building burned in 1904. The eleven members of the class of 1898 had the honor of being the largest class graduated and the class of 1902 was the smallest.



1 room frame school that burned in 1904.

The building burned in August of 1904 and the six room brick building was built on the same site. Until January of 1905 the classes were scattered here and there over town-in halls and churches.

The new brick building was used for both grade and high school until 1921, when the High School moved into the new Township

High School building. This allowed the two grade rooms to be divided and each of the first six grades have a room to itself. The vote for the Township High School was in 1917 but due to delays in the building, the first three classes were housed in the grade building adding three classes to the 13 others that were graduated from the village High School building. The class of 1906 was an all girl class (of three). "The class of 1909 excluded all girls and were properly repaid two years later in 1911 when seven maids graduated without a single mere man to interfere."



Brick school that replaced it

While the class of 1918 was the first to graduate from the township school, the class of 1921 was the first to be graduated from the township building. Many of the graduates of the three year high school finished by going elsewhere for their fourth year.

There are pictures of nearly all the graduates of the Township High School at the Carnegie Library in DeLand. They became a problem at the high school building after it became a grade school and the Library board took them to preserve them.

During the 25 years of the DeLand High School, the following principals served. Clyde Staley, E.C. Graybill, H.S. Davis, Arthur Verner, Noah Young, H.H. Kirkpatrick, O.N. Kiger, H.L. Dyer, Leo Stuckey, Francis Thompson, Otto Weedman and Lewis Bowyer. Only Mr. Bowyer is alive today. He lives in Arizona. To the writer's knowledge, no grade school teachers of that period are alive. There are several village High School graduates still living in DeLand, and a number away from here that graduated after 1911. Those living in DeLand are: Mrs. Marie Gantz, Harriet McBride Bowsher, Lola Bickel Trigg, William G. Trigg, Lorin Borton and Grace Paugh. The members of the class of 1916, the last to graduate from the village school were: Lorin Borton, Faye Cox Keller, Carleton Haggard, Guy O'Brien, and Harold Porter. All but Borton continued in school the next year as the first class to graduate from the Township High School. Other members of the first class were Glenn Bosler and Glenn Riley. W.O. Jones was the first principal of the Township High School and stayed longer than any other principal until 1936-37.

The Township High School building was opened for school work on January 20, 1921. On Friday, January 28, an open house was held and a program was given by the High School orchestra and band. Students conducted visitors over the building and explained it to them. The changing of the school from a village to a township school meant that for the first time, rural school children could attend a high school without paying tuition, and the establishment of a four year high school made it no longer necessary for DeLand students to go out of town for their fourth year in high school. The pupils in the nine sections of township 20 were declared non-high school district and the tuition paid in the schools of their choice. Some went to Weldon, Cisco and Monticello as well as DeLand. Later the nine sections became part of some of these high school districts.

The History of the Township High School building is summarized from the annual "DELANOIS", volume three published in May, 1921:

By petition circulated by E.T. McMillen and signed by one-fifth of the voters and filed in the County Superintendent's Office; the district could call an election to vote on a new Township High School. This was in 1915. The district was then allowed to elect a board of education. The board elected consisted of J.B. Porterfield, president; L.A. Crown, secretary; M.F. McMillen, C.H. Porter, H.E. Bickel, R.B. Hubhart, and W.T. Haggard. This board made plans for a building on ten acres of land at the southwest corner of town. Because of disagreements and arguments as to the legality of the proceedings, the matter was taken to these courts and finally to the State Supreme Court which declared the plans unconstitutional.

In the spring of 1917 a law called the validating act was passed and gave districts already organized permission to go on with their plans. The Board of Education hired three teachers, then three more and took over the management of the Orchestra. The High School district was numbered 112 and consisted of the 45 sections in township 19 and six sections in Blue Ridge township. (Some of these were later petitioned out). Five of the ten acres in the option were secured and the building started by Pillinger Co. of Chicago on the 10th of October 1919. It was to have been finished by September 1, 1920 but various delays including an injunction by some of the taxpayers who were opposed to it, delayed the opening until January 20th, 1921.

The building is a large two story structure with a gymnasium on the east and an addition on the west to accommodate a shop and lunchroom. The latter was built in the forties with money left by the Lancaster estate. There was a complete water system, a kitchen and laboratory furnished with gas, new equipment for the Home Ec and Agricultural departments besides several classrooms. The school



was accredited by the State and the U of I. Each student had to have 16 credits to graduate.

There was a band, an orchestra, annual oratorical contests, an annual year book, and a commercial department. Sports were basketball and track and spring baseball. There was physical training for girls. It was much different than the old village school with its one or two teachers and knowledge gained only by books.

There were several long time teachers in the DeLand Schools. Miss Caroline Boling, the first Home Ec. teacher, remained for many years as did the Misses Rebecca and Grace Gray and Miss Nellie Amidon in the grade school. DeLand had good, dedicated teachers and the education received by the children showed it.



Unit schools of DeLand-Weldon on county line.

#### THE ERA OF CONSOLIDATION

In 1945, the enrollment of the rural schools had dwindled to a point where it seemed sensible and economical to consolidate them. The districts of the township agreed and the schools were closed and the children brought into town by bus.

In 1947, the Weldon and DeLand schools were consolidated by vote of the two school districts. The Nixon and Goosecreek township High Schools were also consolidated at the same time and the large district became a Community Unit District, numbered 57. The purpose was to provide better education at a lower cost. The Goose Creek township building became the High School; the Nixon township building became the Junior High; and each town retained its grade school through the first six grades.

In 1950, voters O.K.'d a new High School proposal. It was built on route ten at the county line between Nixon and Goose Creek townships. It is a modern High School building with gymnasium and swimming pool.

Nixon township high school building was continued in use as a Junior High until 1967 when it was destroyed by fire. The DeLand grade school had in the meantime, moved into the old high school and most of the Junior High classes were held there for the rest of the year. This was not too bad as the Junior High burned in May and school was about over.

The Board of Education decided to

rebuild, but to put the new building on the campus of the High School. The burned building was covered by insurance. By adding a little to the insurance they were able to add enough space to the Junior High building to accommodate the grade school pupils from both towns. The new building was finished in 1969 and the grade pupils moved into it. The moving was a marvel of efficiency. The pupils carried their own books in a shopping bag and room by room, they were loaded on the bus. Each grade's departure was followed by a truck which had speedily loaded the furniture of that room and met them at the new building where the furniture was placed and the children walked in with their books. The DeLand School was moved in the morning and the Weldon in the afternoon. They hardly missed a class.

All of the old buildings were sold. The old village school was bought by W.B. Trenchard who has razed it to make room for new building sites. The Goose Creek township High building was sold to Joe Crawford and houses the Quality Water Co.



Frank Wrench, former superintendant and county sup.

#### ATHLETICS

Athletics has been important in DeLand's High School. Even the old village school had basketball games in its back yard after school. The township school caused its importance to grow and over the years there have been several winning teams that won in District and Sectional tournaments. In 1946, the team won the Sangamon Valley title and again in 1947 but bowed out in the regional. In 1970 both the Middle School lightweights

and the heavyweights won in the district meet. In 1960, football was added to the athletic program and shortly thereafter the football field was provided with lighting for night games.

Today, the community has two modern buildings, two gymnasiums, a swimming pool used part time by adults, an auditorium where community entertainments as well as school entertainments can be held. Also athletic contests, annual plays and musical entertainments and a lunch program provides the noon meal for the children. All this is a far cry from the little one room schoolhouses the two communities used to begin with.

#### A CARNEGIE LIBRARY FOR A SMALL TOWN

It was in 1912 that the Carnegie Library in DeLand opened its newly varnished doors to the public. It had been a long hard pull to accomplish this, but the community had at last something to be proud of. There had been talk for many years of getting a library. As early as 1884, Merle Widney, (son of the Union church pastor) who was attending school at LaHarpe, was home for a visit and made an effort toward the establishment of a circulating library here. Reporter's comment: "We sincerely hope that he may succeed as the enterprise is a commendable one." Evidently he didn't succeed. There was other talk of a library from time to time, but it took the Woman's club, organized at the turn of the century, to really talk it up. They went so far as to fix up a small room at the grade school for a library. A bookcase, table and chairs were installed and the windows were adorned with curtains.

About 1909, Bruce Rinehart, assistant cashier at the National bank came across an article in a magazine, telling of the encouragement Andrew Carnegie was giving the Library movement by giving Library buildings to various communities. Rinehart, whose mother was an active club woman, knew of the movement in woman's club toward a Library, and recognized an opportunity. He thought what a fine thing it would be for DeLand and mentioned it to a number of people who scoffed at the idea of Carnegie giving such a building to a little town like ours. Finally, Tom McMillen, cashier of the State bank and an actively public spirited citizen, said to him: "Why don't you write to find out?" And write he did. The first answer was negative, but he turned the project over to Mrs. G.R. Trenchard, president of the woman's club, and she finally got results. Carnegie agreed to give Goose Creek township \$8,000 for a building provided they had a library in operation, a place to put the library building and a tax voted to support it.

The first condition was easy. Members of the Woman's club and other interested citizens took some books from their own



shelves, delivered them to the telephone office where the operator, Mrs. Mattie Motherspaw, a clubwoman, acted as Librarian. The second requirement was also soon settled. After considerable discussion and consideration of several sites, Miss Mary Bondurant gave the lots upon which to build it.

The third condition took a little more doing. It was necessary to convince the voters that a library was desirable and that their vote was needed. The Woman's club, who had a knack of getting things done, started this task with spirit. The township is a large one and these were horse and buggy days. Mrs. Donna Reid's father, W.H. Chapin, had a sorrel horse named Daisy. Each afternoon, Mrs. Reid and some of her fellow club members rode in a surrey behind old Daisy into the country and talked Library. Other clubwomen were busy working on their friends and neighbors in town. Then came voting day. It was a day to be long remembered by the women. It simply poured! Undaunted, the women donned boots and raincoats, raised their umbrellas and took their stand at street corners to remind passing voters that this was the day of decision. It paid off. The vote was overwhelmingly for the library.

Six trustees were elected that day. E.T. McMillen, Clyde Porter (who remained on the board until his death in 1959, serving most of that time as president), Miss Mary Bondurant, Mrs. Margaret Hurst, J.H. Campbell and George Bosler. (One of the rules required two clubwomen on the board). Soon things were rolling, bids were submitted and the contract let to F.E. Krahl of Danville.

Miss Mabel Rodman was selected as Librarian and went to the U of I for a short course in Librarianship. J.H. Cobb was appointed custodian. Books were ordered and catalogued and on November 30, 1912, the library was opened to the public.

Dedication exercises were held on December 2, 1912 in the Methodist church with Open House afterwards at the Library. Addresses were given by Charles McIntosh, county superintendent of schools, and by George Reutley of Chicago, secretary of the American Library Association. Music was furnished by a quartette under the direction of D.B. Troxel.

The building is 30 by 47 feet and is of dark red brick trimmed in stone with copper cornices. The main floor is divided into two large rooms by a foyer containing the charging desk. Each large room is divided into two rooms separated by double book stacks, allowing a room for adult fiction, one for adult non-fiction, a children's room and a combination reference, magazine and work room. It is all finished in fumed oak with matching furniture. There is a full basement with space for a gas furnace, a periodical storage room, another storage room for seldom used books and two rooms used by



Carnegie Library

the women's clubs for meeting room and kitchen. Originally the building was heated by a coal furnace. The storage room was originally the fuel room. The kitchen was finished a few years ago with electric stove, refrigerator, water heater and sink by W.B. Trenchard in memory of his mother, Mrs. George Trenchard, and his aunt, Miss Mary Bondurant, both of whom were charter members of the woman's club and had much to do with the establishment of the Library. Mr. Trenchard, himself, was a trustee of the Library for 35 years and was president of the board.

The Library began with 800 volumes. The number is now closer to 10,000. In the past five or six years, the DeLand Library has become a member of the Lincoln Trails System who lends books to its member Libraries and takes the place of the State Library which is now exclusively a Research Library. The System also lends records, art prints and films.

In 1947, C.K. Lancaster left a legacy to the library which permitted the trustees to insulate the ceiling and install more modern lighting. After the death of Clyde Porter his daughter, Maxine Thornborrow, and family gave a gift which was used for a light over the front steps in memory of her father. Numerous other gifts, such as books, have been given.

There have been three Librarians and seven custodians. Miss Rodman remained until 1945. Her place was filled by Miss Grace Paugh, a retired school teacher, who retired in 1965, after 21 years but continued as substitute librarian, working regularly on Saturdays for five more years. Her place as librarian was taken by Miss Zelda Marvel, another retired teacher. Her place as substitute was taken by Miss Helen Baker. There were a number of substitutes. Probably the one working the longest was Mrs. Bertha Turnipseed who worked several years for both Miss Rodman and Miss Paugh. Mrs. Marjorie Huisinga also substituted for the latter during her last years as Librarian. The seven custodians were Mr. Cobb, Otis Gray, Sherman Parrish, C.E. Thompson, Edward Leischner, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Clifton and Louis Kallembach, Jr. who is the present custodian. Mr. Parrish, who took over the work in 1915, stayed on the

job for 44 years.

With the approach of the Library's fiftieth anniversary, in 1962, the building received a complete renovation, including a new roof, some plastering and re-decoration. Open house was held on the Homecoming day that year with exhibits of some of the original 800 books, best sellers, cataloguing procedures, new books and pictures from the village's past. A number of persons pitched in and acted as guides and refreshments were served by the trustee's wives. The following week, school children were given a tour of the library. Over 600 people saw the displays and the building, and started us off on its second fifty years.

The present board of directors are: president, Edwin Reed; secretary, Don Hermann; Trustees, Marjorie Huisinga, George Timmons, Francis Kallembach, Loveta Borton and Joanne Clifton.

When the building was built in 1912, DeLand was said to be the smallest town in the country to ever have a Carnegie Library. This is not true today, but the last census indicated that we are still the smallest town in the State of Illinois to have one. And there are not many smaller towns in the other states with such a library. Often it has visitors passing by drop in who can't believe so small a town could have such a building.

DeLand is proud of its Library and its facilities for helping the public.

#### ORGANIZATIONS AND MORE ORGANIZATIONS

DeLand has always been thoroughly organized. By that, I mean that there have always been many organization in the town that have contributed to the further education of the adults and also to their pleasure. The churches have always had organizations within their framework such as the Ladies' Aid, the Missionary Societies, Men's clubs, young peoples organizations such as the Epworth League, the Christian Endeavor, and Standard Bearers; and organized Sunday School classes. The schools, too, have included organized literary societies, debating teams, library clubs, Girl's basketball clubs, music organizations. All of these contributed to the benefit of the church and schools but furnished recreation for all. The earliest recreation was furnished by the church and school. They had suppers, various kinds of "festivals," spelling bees, singing schools.

The first organization outside of the churches that is mentioned very early in the town's history was a literary society formed in 1875. At its second meeting, officers were elected and a constitution and by-laws were prepared. Their program for this second meeting was to be a debate (subject not given by the reporter) but it ended up in a mock trial of one member who refused to state the question to be debated. It turned out to be hilarious and he was declared guilty and



fined 25 cents.

At the next meeting they were to debate the question "Resolved that education should be made compulsory." (It wasn't compulsory in those days.) It was a good question for debate in view of the fact that in the local district, only 26 of the 63 pupils enrolled, were present the first day of school!

Names mentioned at that meeting were: President — Walker; Members — J.P. VanVickel, Mr. Willis, R.B. Moody, J.W. Davis, Mr. Vail, Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Frettinger. Meetings were held at the Hall every Thursday evening at 7 o'clock. There is no further record of "The Young America Literary Society."

In 1888 another Literary Society was organized which seemed to be connected with the school in some way although there was no high school as yet and it included young people of the community above school age. It met each Friday evening and had a program which included music, readings, addresses and on one occasion, the group held a vote on the choice of a new postmaster. In December of 1889 the meetings were growing in interest and they were contemplating giving an entertainment, proceeds to be used to buy an organ.

There was a very active literary society in the 1890's. Whether or not this was the same organization as that just mentioned is not known, but the YWCU (Young Women's Christian Union) and the Young People's Christian Endeavor known as the "Y" were both active in it as was the WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union). They held regular monthly meetings in the homes, occasionally giving a drama with music between acts. They also had songs, papers on poets or musicians, debates and discussions. One meeting was taken up entirely by a study of Whittier and his poems; another on Bryant. There were departments on Literature, Narcotics, Temperance, a flower mission and contest work. Their efforts, by way of a boycott, succeeded in closing DeLand's billiard hall. They conducted temperance meetings and sponsored gold medal contests. (Mrs. Emma Welch says she won a silver medal at one of these contests and later was active in the organization.) The town as a whole, disapproved of some of the club's activities but the society flourished and lasted for several years with most of the town's younger people active members of it.

Evidently, this Literary Society was very much like the clubs we have today with its departments and activities except that it was purely local and not affiliated with larger organizations as are Woman's clubs, Lodges and the Legion and its Auxiliary.

The earliest Lodges were started in 1883 and the Woman's Club in 1900. The Odd Fellows is the oldest Lodge here today and the Senior Woman's club, the oldest club.

Other Lodges that have been in DeLand are the present Rebekkah Lodge and the Masons which are still in existence and the Modern Woodman, the Royal Neighbors, Good Templars; Knights of Pythias. Wartime and after war organization have been the GAR, The Sons of Veterans, the Legion, and its Auxiliary.

Woman's organizations included the two women's clubs, the Liberty Hour club, the Household Science Club, the Priscillas, the Home Extension, a music club, a garden club and a number of social clubs including a bridge club which has continued for a long time.

#### Good Templars

The Good Templar Lodge organized in 1883, was the first Lodge mentioned in the papers. Not much was given concerning it but it was announced that they would have an ice cream festival at Kirker and Porter's new elevator. This was in August. In October of 1890 they held a Good Templar county convention here. When they disbanded is not known.

Mention was once made of an "Owl's Club" that had a picnic on the Sangamon.

And in 1898, a new insurance Order called the Loyal Sons of America was organized and promised to grow large, but evidently didn't.

#### Modern Woodman of America And the Royal Neighbors

There was an active Modern Woodman Lodge here for a time. When it was organized or when disbanded is unknown. But there was a few items concerning them.

"June 1891 — Sermon for Modern Woodman was preached by Elder Holton of the Christian Church at 2:30, after which they marched to the cemetery and decorated the grave of Neighbor Wisegarver."

"May, 1902 — Entertainment given for the benefit of the Modern Woodman of America by the Ideal Entertainers. It was expected to be one of the finest entertainments to ever visit the village. 'It is good for the mental man as well as the physical man to go occasionally and have a good laugh.' " The Ideal Entertainers program was a success. The program consisted of illustrated songs, musical novelties and motion pictures. They were asked to return at the next season.

According to a report of an anniversary. The Royal Neighbor Organization began in 1890 on March 23rd and the local camp in 1897. However, there seemed to have been a camp before then because an item in an 1890 newspaper announced that the Royal Neighbors (of DeLand) initiated seven in November of that year.

According to the 1915 newspaper, there were 22 charter members. It was called Fern Camp. It grew rapidly until in the

early 1900's when interest in it dropped. In 1914, some of the members decided it should be revived. They initiated 18 members. There were two interesting items in the old papers:

In 1890, the RNA (Royal Neighbors of America) gave an ice cream and strawberry festival. The band made fine music for a large crowd.

In 1902, The Royal Neighbors presented Roi Bickel a beautiful gold ring in appreciation of his musical services rendered at their installation of officers. The Order was still active in the 1940's and 50's but after the death of some of the most active members, some of the members transferred to the Monticello Lodge and the local became inactive. There are still a few Royal Neighbors in DeLand.

#### Knights of Pythias

The Knights of Pythias Lodge was organized here on Dec. 13, 1900. In 1890, a Bement man had tried to organize such a Lodge here, but there was no interest until 1902. They elected and installed officers that same evening. Knights present from other towns number 103. In 1902, they bought carpet and chairs from Trigg's furniture store to use in the hall they shared with the Masons. The Pythians had a picnic in September of 1902. It was a big affair. The Newspaper heading read "It was a Banner Day." According to a long article announcing and reporting on the occasion, the weather man did his best. A large crowd gathered in the Wigwam Park where they had a program — music by the band, a welcome address by Dr. L.W. Reed, the Response by L.C. Clay of Bloomington, music by the Lee Brothers (Jubilee singers), and prayer by Elder Holton.

After dinner a business meeting was held, Cisco was selected as the site of the 1903 picnic and officers were elected. At 1 p.m. the consolidated bands of Cerro Gordo, Cisco, Clinton and DeLand — 72 players in number, gave a concert under the direction of Thomas McMillen of DeLand. Other musical numbers followed and several addresses were given. Speakers were Grand Chancellor Charles H. Cushing of Chicago, Clarence Aldenderfer of DeLand, and Rev. Charles Varney of Clinton. After the speaking, there were contests and other amusements (fat man's race, base ball, etc.) As a fitting close to the day, the knights met in the local Lodge room and put two promotion candidates through the degree in good shape.

The M.E. Ladies Aid Society served the meal and the receipts were \$92.75. Strangers expressed themselves as pleased at the orderly way the picnic was carried on.

The Lodge was reorganized in 1914 after 4 years of no meetings. It was known as the 20th Century Lodge no. 603. In 1915 it had 25 or 30 members. No further information.



The Odd Fellows seemed to be the most active of the early Lodges and is in existence today, being 90 years old this coming August. They were organized August 27, 1883. The installation of the first officers was carried out by a special officer named Holloway from Farmer City, assisted by A.T. Pipher. There were several guests present from Monticello, Mansfield, and Farmer City besides the installing officials. The new Lodge was identified as DeLand IOOF No. 740. Fourteen applicants were put through in approved style. The following officers were chosen and installed: Noble Grand — Dr. J.H. Wood; Vice-Grand — M. Doyle; Secretary — Rodman; Treasurer — R. Merry.

A number of activities of this Lodge was mentioned from time to time. In April of 1884 they gave a festival. And in December of that same year, they installed new officers at the M.E. Church. They were: R.B. Moody, N.G.; J.H. Cobb, C.G.; Wiley Dewees, S.C. Rodman, financial secretary; H.G. Porter, Treasurer. Where they met before 1890 is not mentioned, but in March of that year a room was fitted up over the bank to be occupied by the Odd Fellows and other societies. In April of 1890 they had a grand time when 22 brothers of the Monticello Lodge assisted in conferring degrees on two members.

New officers in 1892 were: H.C. Marquiss, N.G.; J. Rinehart, V.G.; R.B. Moody, Sec.; and J.W. Cypers, Treas.

In June of June of 1894, they conducted memorial services at the Methodist Church. An in October of that year, they celebrated their 11th birthday. Members and a large number of friends assembled at the Wigwam with music by the DeLand band and a bountiful supper. This was followed by a program including instrumental music by D.C. Fortman of Lodge; solos by Maude Gessford; addresses on Odd Fellowship by a Mr. Tatman, and Capt. H.C. Marquiss. All departed chuckful of Odd Fellowship.

On the evening of April 14, 1897, the members received a surprise. Their wives appeared at the door with well filled baskets and demanded admittance. Of course, they were refused while the order was engaged in secret affairs, but the business was soon suspended. The doors were opened and all enjoyed a fine supper. After that the installing officers held that part of the installation that could be made in public and a fine time was enjoyed by all.

Records of the Odd Fellow Lodge were destroyed in the fire of 1933. At that time, they were meeting in a room above the corner building occupied by the Pioneer cream station. The Lodge's record show the first installation to have been August 20th but the old papers give the date as the 27th. According to Lodge records, the charter was issued on November 22nd, 1893. Charter members are listed as Wood,

Doyle, Merry and also H.H. Fuller and John Teter. The paper also listed one of the Rodmans but did not give the initials.

The following people are given as those earning 50 year pins: The dates are their acceptance into the Order: J.O. Barnes, Feb. 23, 1899; G.J. Timmons, Aug. 29, 1901; Frank Timmons, April 3, 1902; Charles Simmons ? 1902; Clark Olson, March 2, 1911 and Joseph Bealor, Aug. 31, 1911.

The officers elected for 1973 are: Noble Grand, G.E. Jayne; Vice Grand, Russell Durbin; Secretary, John M. Leischner; Treasurer, Oral Miller. Leischner has held the office of secretary for 25 to 30 years.

## The Rebekahs

The Rebekah Lodge has been organized twice in DeLand. In February of 1902 the "Daughters of Rebekah Lodge" was organized with 30 charter members. What became of this Lodge is unknown but it was out of existence before Mignonette Rebekah Lodge 236 was instituted on June 17th, 1911 by Dora L. North with 35 charter members. Alice Souders was the first Noble Grand. To date, the Lodge has had 44 Past Noble Grands. At the present time they have 18.

The present Lodge is a very active Lodge, not only in their own community but in the district. In their own community, they are noted for their helpfulness in time of need — especially at the time of deaths when they serve family dinners for the people concerned. They help support an orphanage at Lincoln and a home for the elderly at Mattoon. In addition, they take part in many community projects. After the State Bank built its new building, the Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs bought the old building. They use the upstairs rooms for Lodge meetings and the downstairs for a kitchen and dining room where they serve suppers, such as the annual ham and bean supper. It is also used for programs open to non members and a place to serve refreshments. Occasionally, they rent that room to other groups.

These two lodges have always been active at Homecoming. They have placed first and second several times with their floats in the parade and the ladies usually serve meals at the park on Homecoming day.

Installation of the new officers of Mignonette Rebekah Lodge 236 for 1973 took place January 10th, 1973 with Miss Louise Brummett, Urbana, District president in charge. They were: Mattie Lee Smith, N.G.; Hilda Franklin, V.G.; Bette Grant, recording secretary; Betty Williams, financial secretary; Fern Fisher, treasurer; Esther Weakley, musician; Helen Vaughn, Warden; Ruth Conatser, Conductor, and other officers and committees. Era Swartz is the retiring Noble Grand.

A charter for the DeLand Lodge 812 AF & AM was issued by the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois on October 5, 1892. The chartered Lodge of Ancient Free and accepted Masons has the authority to confer the several degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees, which are the first three steps in Masonry. At the time of the signing of the charter the following officers were installed: Worshipful Master, Edward J. Hanma; Senior Warden, Timothy G. Deveney; Junior Warden, Rueben B. Moody; Treasurer, J.H. Rinehart; Secretary, J.A. Davis; Senior Deacon, J.H. Wood, Junior Deacon, Cyrus Paul; Chaplain, John Vail; Senior Steward, Bowman Fuller; Junior Steward, L.C. Campbell; Tyler, J.W. McConkey.

The 1972 membership consists of sixty Master Masons. Of the present membership, there are twenty-six who also belong to the Bloomington Consistory and are 32nd degree Masons and sixteen that belong to the Ansar Shrine, Springfield, Ill. These are the higher steps in the Lodge.

The Masons first met in the Odd Fellow Hall above the corner hardware in one of the new tile buildings. From there they moved to the room above the store built by Dr. Davis. This was the southern of the three tile buildings. In 1931, they bought the First National Bank building (now the postoffice) and still have their Lodge rooms in the upper floor of that building. They were lucky. In 1933 the three tile buildings burned and the fire started in the lower part below their former Lodge Hall. The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs lost their records but the Masonic papers were safe.

The Lodge at the present time has four fifty year members: William Trigg, Faurest Borton, P.E. Fonner, and Lorin Borton. They also have the honor of having from their membership John C. Doyle who is the Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois.

They have a list of past presidents containing 47 different names. Some of them have served more than one term. J.H. Wood served eight years. R.B. Moody and P.E. Fonner each served six.

The paper of October, 1895 mentions them moving above the Davis store and in March 1902, it mentions the Masonic and K of P Lodges purchasing a new carpet and new officer and member chairs from Cobb and Trigg.

"DeLand can boast of two of the handsomest club rooms in the county."

The officers for 1973 are as follows: Worshipful Master, John W. Gantz; Senior Warden, Wm. H. Gantz; Junior Warden, Ronald Hall; Treasurer, Neil Madden; Secretary, Robert Moberly, Jr.; Senior Deacon, George Edwards; Junior Deacon, Vernelle Leischner, Jr.; Senior Steward, Gay Maden; Junior Steward, Bruce Meyer; Chaplain, Don Persons; Marshall



Karl Borton; and Tyler, Ellis Leischner.

Deceased 50 year members: J. Bruce Rinehart, R.J. Murphy and Dr. G.S. Walker.

### Senior Woman's Club

The Senior DeLand Woman's Club of today is the oldest continuous club in DeLand. It was the first woman's club to be organized and is now over seventy years old, but is still active in the community though they are few in number.

The Woman's club Movement in America was getting rolling when in October of 1900, a little group of eight women met at the home of Mrs. Donna Reid and organized.

Mrs. Reid, in the history she wrote for their 50th anniversary says: "It was the men who really started the ball rolling which resulted in the organization of the club. Whether they decided their wives could improve their cooking or were deteriorating intellectually is not known. But very adroitly they began to ask how come DeLand women were letting women in other towns get ahead of them. (Monticello, Decatur and Champaign had all organized clubs). So the women met. They were: Mrs. Lucy Thornton; Mrs. Margaret Hurst; Mrs. Atha Cox; Mrs. Metta Carrier; Mrs. Esta England; Mrs. Estella Verner; Mrs. Hattie Swartz; and Mrs. Reid. The charter was held open for two weeks and at the next meeting were added the names of Miss Mary Bondurant; Mrs. Ada Reed, and Mrs. Alzina Dillon. By January, 1900, the limit of twenty-five members was filled. Constitution and by-laws were drafted with the help of some of the husbands. The club was called "THE DELAND IMPROVEMENT CLUB."

In the early days, the programs consisted of recipe demonstrations, and matters connected with the home. They often had out-of-town speakers. One that they particularly enjoyed was Mrs. Eugenia Bacon of Decatur. Another was Miss Fannie Brooks who came each winter and held cooking demonstrations. At that time, Miss Bondurant practically moved her kitchen to the Christian Church where the demonstrations were held.

For several years they used the Bay View reading course as a study and travelled all over the world by the way of books.

About 1910, the club became affiliated with district, state, and federal Federations and dropped the word "improvement" from their title. Now, everyone refers to them as the Senior Club to distinguish them from the "Evening Woman's Club" which was started in 1936 under the sponsorship of the DeLand Woman's Club.

After federation, the programs branched out to include projects both at home and in the federation. All women's clubs are organized with many departments that cover about every subject possible on home, education, the fine arts, civic and

foreign questions. Scholarships are given in the field of fine arts, Indian education, conservation and other areas.

The DeLand Woman's Club has sponsored many local projects. The Carnegie Library is the direct result of their diligence, as is the chapel at the cemetery intended as a memorial to the soldiers of World War I. It took eight years to collect the money for the chapel by giving home talent plays and receiving donations.

One of the most successful projects of the Woman's Club was the annual clean up campaign which began about 1915 and continued for many years. When the Garden club was organized a few years later, the clean up project was turned over to them. It has been dropped now and then but has again been revived at times by the two woman's clubs.

Many smaller, though no less important projects have been sponsored by this club. Examination of school children and pre-school children, health programs, vaccinations, furniture to the school including the setting up of a library, the raising of a flag pole at the school, a grandfather clock and a bust of Lincoln for the Library, fixing up the clubroom in the library, the planting of trees, the giving of music scholarships, cooperation with other organizations, especially the Evening Woman's club in such projects as the buying of playground equipment for the park and the Unicef drive. One project sponsored about 1911, was individual drinking cups for the school children. The school used a well at the time and all the children drank from the tincups that were stacked at the well. The woman's club became concerned over this unsanitary condition and bought an aluminum drinking cup for each child. A number was put on each cup and the children were told to drink from their own cups and not share it. Much was said about germs. The writer's mother stopped at the Dresback home one day, and being a very hot day, she asked Gladys, the eight year old to bring her a glass of water. When the glass was handed back to her, there was a little water left and the child drank it. Richard, the first grader, was standing by, and as Gladys raised it to her lips, he protested. "Oh, Gladys," said he. "Don't drink that. It might have gems in it."

The woman's clubs latest project is street signs for the streets of DeLand. The signs were delivered and in June of 1972, they were installed.

In its early years, the social life of the village was somewhat restricted. The DeLand Woman's club had three social affairs each year to which the husbands were invited. For many years, also, the Senior and Evening clubs had a joint meeting with especially interesting programs and sometimes they had guests at these.

One of the highlights in the club's history was the entertaining of the District club in

1921 and another was the forming of the Piatt County club which took place in December of 1924. The district president asked Mrs. G.S. Walker to see what she could do about organizing the county. Mrs. Walker gave a four course luncheon at her home to 24 people. They came from the various clubs in the county and enthusiastically organized the county club that day. Mrs. Walker acted as president until the first election of the club the next year.

The DeLand woman's club is now nearly 73 years old and is still going. It has accomplished much in its lifetime and its influence will be felt for many years to come. It has indeed been an "improvement" club.

The 1972 and 73 officers of the Senior Club are: Mrs. G.R. Madden, president; Mrs. C.C. Trigg, vice president; Mrs. Lois Cox, Secretary, Mrs. Hermann Meyer, Treasurer; Pianist, Lola Trigg; Parliamentarian -- Lois Cox.

### The Evening Woman's Club

The Evening Woman's Club had its beginnings as the DeLand Junior Woman's club during a meeting in November 1935 when some of the young women of the community were invited by Mrs. Alice Wood, a Woman's club member, to meet at her home to consider the formation of a Junior club. Eleven were present and plans were made to hold the first meeting on December 6th at Marjorie Leischners. At that meeting, fourteen signed as charter members. They were: Marjorie Leischner, Viola Bartison, Louise Bartison, Marjorie Roos, Irlene Ammann, Nola Headlee, Algene Thomas, Margaret Doyle, Louise Anderson, Wilma Halcomb, Betty Turnipseed, Era Swartz, Helen Crosby, and Margaret Doyle. Four of these are still members but only two have remained members continuously. They are Irlene Ammann Honselman, and Era Swartz. Marjorie Roos Husisinga and Helen Crosby Foltz were out for awhile but have been reinstated. Later in the year, Mildred Arrowsmith, Ora Fathour, Mabel Jones, Helen Johnson, Thelma Miller, Zelda Marvel, Bernice Reed, Katherine Wolfe, Mary and Phyllis Bragg, and Elizabeth Beasley joined Katherine Wolfe Leischner is also still a member.

At the first meeting, the club became members of the County and District Organizations. At first they met twice a month in the members homes. As the club grew they met at the Library clubroom. A few years ago, they changed to one monthly meeting. Two members of the woman's club were chosen to serve as sponsors. The first year Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Harry Bickel served. After the club had been organized several years, the sponsors were dropped.

Mrs. Algene Thomas became the first president. Presidents since that time include: Mary Bragg (Huisinga); Mrs. Lee Grubb; Mildred Arrowsmith; Lucille



Vaughn, Anora Smith, Alma Dalton, Ruth Behrens, Era Swartz, Lola Reed, Gertrude Clapper, Grace Paugh, Betty Schroeder, Kay Leischner, Helen Halcomb, Helen Foltz, Kathleen Foster, Sally Ann Madden, Thelma Moberly, Sue Timmons. Judy Huisinga is the current president. The club has more than thirty members and is composed mostly of young mothers and people who work during the day.

As a Junior club, there was supposed to be an age limit and when one reached that age they were to go into the Senior club. But because of the makeup of the club (young mother's and working women) the status of the club was changed and given the name of "Evening Woman's Club."

The Evening Woman's club follow the same plan of programs as the Senior Women and are affiliated with County, State and General Federation.

The club has always tried to support some community project. For several years they raised money to send the Girl Scouts to camp. They cooperated with the Senior club in establishing a Youth Center (which didn't turn out very well) and with the cooperation of other organizations, have added playground equipment to the park, sponsored an annual Unicef party, collected for the March of Dimes and the Red Cross, took part in clean-up campaigns, sponsored an Art Show on Homecoming day for several years, planted some trees, sent students to Art, Music and Conservation camps, helped sponsor one afternoon program at Homecoming, and took a large part in the program that celebrated the Illinois Sesquicentennial. At present they are working enthusiastically on plans for celebrating the village's 100th birthday. Like the Woman's club, they are interested in making DeLand a better place to live.

They have fun meetings also — a picnic in the fall, a Christmas party, the Finale in the spring at which time the club members go out of town for a dinner and a show.

#### Household Science Club

For many years DeLand had a Household Science Club which was organized in March of 1915 at the home of Mrs. Clifford Porter, with the assistance of Mrs. Fletcher Beck of Bement. It began with fourteen charter members. Officers were President — Susie Leischner; Vice-president — Emma Porter; Secretary and Treasurer — Marie Gantz; Committee on Constitution and By-laws — Mrs. Porter and Lottie Reed; program committee — Mrs. Leischner, Mrs. Gantz and Mrs. Addie Carter. Meetings were to be held the first and third Fridays of each month. This was later changed to one a month. Their purpose, according to their year books, was "to create an intellectual stimulus in all that pertains to homemaking, and housekeeping."

The first meeting was held on March 7, at the home of Annabelle Dresback. The program consisted of a report of the

committees; music by Mrs. Gantz; roll call — My Favorite Sandwich filling; and a demonstration of sandwiches and cocoa by the hostess. A Social hour followed.

Like the other women's organizations, the Household Science club was interested in the community and participated in most of the joint projects such as the Clean-up Campaigns, the Youth Center, the playground equipment in the park. They held regular guest days and the special meetings like the Christmas meeting. But the high point of the year was the annual May breakfast. The committee in charge selected a theme and carried it out in the decorations, food, the program and the toasts which were nearly always given to the other members and often in rhyme. This club was discontinued in 1966 after 51 years. Three of the charter members were at the last meeting. They were: Mrs. I.W. Gantz, Mrs. M.E. Swartz, and Mrs. Alva Reed. The May breakfast was held that year at the home of Mrs. Cecil Clemons with Mrs. Marie Gantz as assistant hostess. Mrs. G.R. Madden was toast-mistress with Mrs. Arthur Moberly and Mrs. R. J. Murphy responding with toasts to "Pioneer Days". This theme was carried out with a red checkered tablecloth, spoons in a spoon holder, baked chicken dinner served family style and other home-made old-fashioned goodies. It was both gay and sad — gay because of its character, and sad at the drop in active membership from thirty to eleven that caused it to be discontinued.

#### The Priscillas

The Priscilla club which is still going today was organized in the decade between 1910 and 1920. The exact year is unknown. It was started by four women living in the block south of the railroad — Joyce Porter, Donna Reid, Alzina Dillon, and Ada Reed. Once a month they got together in one of the homes and spent the afternoon doing handwork and visiting. Other women became interested and at one time the club had twenty-five members which was put as a limit since the club met in the homes and more could not be accommodated.

The Priscillas have been purely a social club. Each member was expected to bring handwork (and were fined if they didn't) and for a short time they tried programs but these did not go over very well. Now they just visit. Mrs. Sarah Carrier, DeLand's blind poet, wrote the following lines to the club sometime before 1919 when her book of poems was published:

#### TO THE PRISCILLA CIRCLE

My friends of the Circle, we have met here today  
To spend a few moments together, and  
pass time away

In telling short stories that may come to mind,  
Or in reading or talking, as each is inclined.

Some bring here their fancy work, mostly to show  
That work comes before pleasure, wherever we go;  
While others, more practical, bring a garment to make;

Still other have nothing so handy as a tea-towel to take.  
Now all these things are useful and will come into play;  
In well managed households, they are used every day.

But this social circle has another object in view,  
'Tis to bind hearts together, and old friendships renew;  
And to welcome the stranger who comes to our town, for which our good people have gained social renown,  
Which is better by far than the Angelfood cake,  
Or the ice cream and coffee, that our hostess may make,  
For it leaves in our heart a sweet sense of repose  
That follows kindness to others as everyone knows.

Then let love be our password, and kindness our aim;

Let us ever be helpful to the poor, blind, and lame,  
And we in our turn will receive a kindly reward,  
If we follow the pattern marked out by our Lord

#### The Liberty Hour Club

On a Tuesday afternoon in 1932, Mrs. C.R. Roos invited a number of neighbor ladies to her home for tea and cookies with the idea of forming a club. The women approved and they immediately made plans to meet once a month in one of the homes. Today, these neighbors are still meeting along with their daughters and daughters-in-law and women who have moved into the neighborhood. Even some of these who have moved away and must travel a considerable distance come back for the monthly meetings. They are civic-minded people and donate to special funds that are raised for community betterment. For several years they have had a float for the Homecoming parade and have also had antique and hobby shows on that day.

The club numbers around twenty. They occasionally have special meetings when they invite the families.

The first president was Pearl Roos, Secretary — Golda Jones.

The 1972 president is Hattie Bartison; vice-president, Jean Huisinga; secretary-treasurer, Marjorie Huisinga. Mrs. Roos was made an honorary president since this



was the 40th anniversary.

Flower — Lily-of-the-valley; Colors — green and white. There motto is:

It's just how you take it.

It isn't the subject assigned you,

But just what you make it.

### Social Clubs

DeLand has had many social clubs including rook clubs, Canasta clubs and bridge clubs. These come and go, but there is one bridge club that has been in existence for many years.

The group started playing together with their husbands — playing 500. Interest in that waned after awhile but the women decided to continue playing Bridge. They meet every two weeks in the homes. At first they always had three tables but often play with two tables. The group changes from time to time, but there are a few who have been in the club from its beginning. These include Ersa Murphy, Lola Bickel, Mollie Fonner, Grace Borton.

There have also been several Four-H clubs in DeLand. The 4-H club movement started at the turn of the century but was not officially given the name 4-H until about 1913 or 14, and was not sponsored by the Farm Bureau and Home Extension organizations in Piatt county (as they are at the present time) until 1922. The work in this county was begun in the schools when Mr. McIntosh, the county superintendent, offered to give the seventh and eighth grade pupils credit on their final examination in Agriculture and Household Arts if they carried out a project. For several years the children made gardens, raised poultry, hogs and calves and made garments for this credit with the teacher or a mother in charge. The banks also sponsored a calf club, helping the youngsters to get their calves by loaning them the money. When the clubs were taken over by the Home Extension they were put under the leadership of someone in each community and finally any child, not just the farm children were eligible.

The county records of the Agricultural Extension service show that DeLand had a 4-H Home Economics club organized in April of 1922. It was called the DeLand Garment Making Club and was led by Bertha Helfenstein, a teacher in the local school. There were 18 boys and 18 girls in this club.

In 1925, the Merry Mates Clothing club with 14 members was led by Eva and Pearl Barnes. Later on, the Happy Stitchers club was organized. In 1947 the DeLand Happy Hour club with 27 members taking various projects was led by Mrs. Ervin Huisinga, Mrs. Cecil Clemons, Mrs. Harold Floyd, Mrs. Howard Gantz, and Mrs. C.E. Sprague.

In 1959, the DeLand Busy Fingers 4-H Club was organized and is still thriving. In 1972 it was led by Mrs. J.E. Reed and Mrs. Dean Grant and had the following members: Terri and Tom Apperson, Marilyn Carter, Tim Clifton, Sharon Crichton, Tina

Foster, Dee Ann Grant, Gayle Gregory, Pete Haynes, Susan Hermann, Jacquelyn Huisinga, Carol and James Reed. The 13 members carried a total of 38 projects including cooking, sewing, arts and crafts, woodworking, conservation, baby sitting and photography. Many of them attended the camp at Allerton Park for a week and even told about their club and its activities on radio station WVLJ. Carol Reed attended a 4-H Citizen conference in Washington DC. The members exhibited their completed projects at a local achievement meeting and the county show in Cerro Gordo where some were selected to go to the State Fair. The local club is sponsored by the DeLand Home Extension Club.

Another local 4-H Club — the Blue Ribbon Club — is now inactive. It was active under the leadership of Ervin Huisinga but was temporarily disbanded. Robert Wisegarver reorganized it in 1958. In 1959 Don Persons, assisted by Gerald Myerscough became the leader and worked with it until 1969. It became inactive in 1969 but it is possible for all projects now to be taken under the leadership of the Busy Fingers Club or to be taken in the County club. During the time the Blue Ribbon club was active, they lived up to its name by earning Blue Ribbons, Trophies and Leadership awards. They had several members who were active in the County Federation of 4-H Clubs.

### Scouts

There have been several troops of Boy Scouts organized in DeLand. There was a boy scout troop in the thirties led by Rev. Longenbaugh and there may have been one before that. This was followed by a troop led by George Edwards which was sponsored by the men of the Methodist Church. It was still active in 1968 but has since disbanded.

The Evening Woman's Club sponsored a Girl Scout Troop during the thirties and early forties. This was active until after the consolidation of the schools but gradually became inactive.

The club paid part of the expenses each year of those who wanted to go to camp. A council of local women directed the troop.

For a short time, the Senior Woman's Club sponsored a brownie troop.

### DeLand Weldon American Field Service

This club centered at the High School is a private, non-sectarian organization whose purpose is the promotion of understanding between people through international scholarship programs. It has two main programs: One — the winter program brings students from other countries for a year of study and experience in the United States. The second, called Americans Abroad send American students to other

countries, either for a summer abroad or for a school year.

The DeLand-Weldon chapter was formed in 1965 with 25 people from the two communities responsible for the raising of funds, for finding the host families and they encourage local students to apply for the Americans Abroad program.

Our chapter has had three students: Antonio Cordera from Costa Rico whose host family was the Lonnie Smiths; Fernando Laybauer of Brazil whose host family was the Don Hermanns and Marit Rasmussen, who lived with the Dick Loney family.

Our first Americans Abroad student was Jan Hermann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Hermann, who spent the summer of 1972 with a family in the Philippines and attended school there.

Each year the local AFS sponsored either an AFS weekend or a day, when AFS students and their American brothers and sisters from neighboring communities are invited to the school and community for different activities. They also invite University of Illinois students from different countries for a meal and programs.

For a short time in the twenties or thirties, there were two other woman's clubs. One was a music club who met for the purpose of learning about musicians and good music. It was about the time that Victrolas became popular and part of their programs was listening to some of the fine music that the Victrola and Edison companies recorded. Some of the ladies had regular concerts on the victrola, inviting in their friends and neighbors.

The Garden Club was very active for awhile. Each year they held a Flower Show which was attended by people from other areas. They gave awards for various categories in flower raising and flower arranging. Many people around DeLand spent a great amount of time planting and raising flowers. The Garden Club took care of the Clean-up campaign for several years. Peonies were a specialty with several of the women — Mrs. George Hursh, Mrs. Keller and the Trenchards. All had lovely peony gardens.

The men had organizations, too. A business men's association was formed in 1910 — its purpose to sponsor things that would better DeLand. For a number of years they sponsored weekly open air picture shows, band concerts, Chatauquas, and community picnics. They were joined in their efforts by a booster club in the 19teens. The Chatauquas needed much advertising and sometimes carloads of men and the band went from town to town advertising the coming events. The community picnics lasted for several years — sometimes there was only one day. Other times there were as many as three days. Prizes were given for fancy work displays, cooking displays and for the best cattle and other stock that were displayed on Main street. The chairs from the Wigwam were moved downtown and put at the edge of the sidewalk. The band



gave two concerts each day and often a carnival was in town for the event complete with merry-go-round and ferris wheel. The counterpart of the booster club today is DeLand Entertainments, incorporated, who have for 15 or 16 years sponsored a homecoming complete with parade, horse show and other entertainment. They are planning the celebration this year of our 100th anniversary.

In the 1930's there was a Lions Club in DeLand. They were first organized in 1931 at a meeting with 16 present. All 16 members present that night became charter members and others joined the next day. The officers were: Harry Bickel, president; William Trigg, vice president and treasurer; Lynn Williams, lion tamer; W.O. Jones, Rev. Willey, C.P. Bowsher, W.B. Trenchard and E.T. McMillen, directors; Carter Wisegarver, tail twister. Other charter members were C.P. Bowsher, I.R. Cathcart, J.C. Doyle, C.C. Trigg, J.R. Dresback and Lester Oakley.

The charter meeting was held with a program of music, a speech by Franklin Quoyile, the presentation of the charter by Mark Whitmeyer, a district governor which was accepted by President Bickel. The Methodist Guild served a banquet.

A Boy Scout Troop was organized at a meeting at Rev. Johnsons. The lions held a charter night for the Scouts with a banquet and became the troop's sponsors. They also entertained the basketball squad each year.

They did not last many years, becoming inactive in 1934 but they reorganized in 1940 with I.R. Cathcart as president. We have no further information concerning them.

## A MUSICAL TOWN

DeLand has always been a musical town. This is shown by the bands and choral societies that have dominated its history. The early churches all had choirs and used them constantly for entertainments as well as church services. Musical entertainment was of ten brought in from the outside such as the Coly Brothers of Clinton who gave an enjoyable entertainment at the school in 1876. And music has been a feature of most of the organizations meetings. The music club has been mentioned. Its purpose was to further the use of music in the community.

There may have been musical instruments in DeLand before 1877, but they must not have been common, as the purchase of an organ by R. B. Moody was deemed important enough to report in the county paper. Subsequently several others were reported as having bought organs and it was reported that one lady had bought some sheet music! As time went on, other instruments appeared. The piano took the place of organs. The Edison phonograph was invented and was all the rage. And then came the Victrola and the record concerts to which the guests were



Band about the turn of the century.

expected to listen and not visit until the concert was over.

Professor Cushman organized a singing school in 1877, and there were others who conducted such schools from time to time. D. B. Troxel became noted for the concerts, musical plays and cantatas which he put on when fifty or sixty took part. He encouraged anyone who had any musical talent to take part and everyone enjoyed singing in his choruses.

And then there was the band! Bands came and went through the 1880's and 90's and into the twentieth century. Until the township High School was formed and an excellent school band, built up by Harry Merry took their place. The first mention of a band was in 1882 when a cornet band was organized. Sometimes it was spoken of as "DeLand's Brass Band."

"The DeLand Cornet Band assisted by Miss May Murphy as soloist, and pianist and the best of DeLand's local talent gave a benefit concert." (Miss Murphy was from Monticello.)

"1883 -- Our brass band "bowed" at Farmer City for the 4th."

"Some new members have been added to the band. Now we shall hear the variations in time and tune incidental to such a change. But the boys must have a chance for improvement."

In that same year, the band boys had a weight supper at Kirker and Porter's new elevator. The receipts of over \$70 was used

to employ a competent instructor. In 1885, the band underwent reorganization. Several were going out of it and several coming in which checked its progress for awhile. The band played at all important local social occasions and at neighboring towns for special events. They gave strawberry festivals and other affairs to make money for new instruments from time to time. On July 7, 1900 they gave an open air concert in their new suits and their new band wagon. They became a marching band and took part in a Republican parade at Monticello. Arthur Verner, the high school principal engineered this.

In 1902, the business men sponsored open air concerts during the summer. We have a picture of this band under the leadership of Thomas McMillen. The members and their instruments were: McMillen, cornet; M.F. McMillen, baritone; D. Barnes, clarinet; C.L. Gilmore, cornet; C. Harshbarger, tuba; T.M. McConkey and E. Summers, slide trombones; Cooper Bowsher and Ed Leischner, altos; J.W. Gessford, slide trombone.

"May 16, 1902 if any musical tune, tum-tum-lum sound reaches your ears, just consider that it's Will Haggard in the tinshop practicing as new bass drummer of our band."

In October the Farmer City Journal, after the band played for an old soldiers reunion there, reported.

"The DeLand band is a very clever





Larger band started about 1916

organization and its playing was highly complimented. With a little strengthening in the cornet section, the boys could hold their own with the best country bands.

For a little while after this band gave up the struggle DeLand did not have a band, but about 1914 or 15, a band of over 30 pieces was organized. W.E. Leischner was president of the organization; R. J. Murphy, Secretary and treasurer; E.T. McMillen, manager and Harry Merry, leader. This band grew in number until there was around 55 members and it played for all local events and many in the surrounding community for a number of years. The comment of the editor on the first practice of the band was not complimentary, it read thus:

"Most of the members were able to make some kind of noise and at the first practice, they made some noise. It really sounded like music until the clarinet section broke loose with some 16 clarinets crackling, sputtering and squeaking. However, the instructor, who had given 15 lessons during the day, and others said that it was fine for the first time. Maybe it was!"

But all the boys (and some girls) in the bands learned to play well and for several years we had summer band concerts on Thursday nights. Miss Nellye Motherspaw who had a beautiful soprano voice was their soloist and the band gained considerable fame. World War I put a crimp in their playing as many of its members left for the army. But there were enough of them left to send the boys off with the band playing. By 1925, the band had nearly disbanded because of lack of interest, but was revived enough to have concerts that summer.

At the community picnic that year, the Legion who had put on the picnic, gave the band a banquet in honor of their ten years of service. After that, the High School band was depended on for music for special occasions.



Band concert.



Band practicing marching.

#### LITTLE GERMAN BAND

This little band has been quite popular in this area since its first organization in 1933. It was organized at the DeLand

Township High school and over the years have entertained many people here and in neighboring communities. The German Band, or the "Hungry Five" as they were sometimes called (in keeping with their music from a book by that name), originally consisted of Vernelle Leischner,



trombone; Keith Garver, trumpet; John Doyle, bass; Edwin Reed, bass and Gene Wisegarver, bass. Their uniforms were the cast off garments of the old DeLand band of the 1915 to 24's.



Original Little German Band.

Since most of the group graduated in 1934, an entirely new band was organized the following year. The members were Elsie Crosby, baritone; Dorothy Turnipseed, trumpet; Paul Parrish, bass; Eleanor Skeels and Dorothy McBride, clarinets. For two years this group played at school activities, amateur shows and fairs. Their first public appearance was at a county teachers meeting at Monticello. A high light of the occasion was when Mr. McIntosh unexpectedly walked into their room before the girls were quite dressed.

They were still wearing the uniforms of the town band but sometimes they glued on mustaches to look the part. The newspaper of 1935 described them thus.

"The clothes of these musicians are not very picturesque. Some of the uniforms are short, some large, some tight, so when you see these people with their Mustaches, side burns and queer looking clothes, please don't get frightened and run. These germans play well known pieces such as "Pop Goes the Weasel", "The Old Gray Mare" and "Old MacDonald". They also play some tunes from their native land such as "hi-le,hi-lo".

During the 1936-37 school year, members were Elsie Crosby; Carmen Fonner; Paul Parrish; Barbara Borton and Eleanor Skeels. They played at least thirty engagements that year.



Present Little German Band.

Popular as they were, there was no more high school German band after 1937. But many years later (in the 1950's) some of

the former members revived the band which has been playing ever since for activities such as Summer band concerts, Homecoming activities, Mason activities, the Farmer City and Weldon Centennials. We expect to hear them at the DeLand Centennial in the fall. Members now include: Elsie Crosby Trigg, baritone; John Doyle, bass; Neil Madden, trumpet; Gerald Marietta (former DeLand-Weldon band director), trombone; Edwin Reed and Dorothy McBride Hermann, clarinets.

## KENTUCK PLOWBOYS

Another popular group that played many places in this area and even broadcast from the radio station at Clinton were farmers from the Kentucky neighborhood. They were a singing group. The members were: Clark Olson, Claude Jones, Willard Smith, Sheldon Jones, Harm Meyer, Seymour Knisely. They were accompanied by Carl Kingston and later by Mrs. Seymour Knisely. The group sang together for several years in the late forties and early fifties. All but Mr. and Mrs. Knisely are now deceased.

There is another local group who have been playing together for some time and who play each year at Homecoming. They play country music and are called The Hickory Hill Boys. Members are: John Gantz, Ronald Hall, Bill Golden, Bob Valentine, Jim Smith, Spencer Sorrenson.

Other entertainment has been the Lecture courses held in the early part of the century and sponsored by the Woman's Club. Usually there were four of these each winter and they consisted of lectures, dramas, and musical numbers. And in the summers, there was a Chatauqua held here for several summers beginning about 1914. The Chatauqua lasted for a week with programs in both the afternoon and evening. They, too, were composed of a variety of numbers. Since, in those days, we didn't have entertainment like TV and radio in the home, they filled the need of entertainment for the people.

And last but not least was PERCY'S. They were a traveling group that came each summer for a week giving a new play each evening. And they were very good. Everyone looked forward to their coming. The owner of the show was a man named Leightly from Farmer City. His wife and a small daughter traveled with him along with others.

A troupe who played "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was a frequent visitor and sometimes we had a dog and pony show or even a one ring circus.

And later on we had movies on the street sponsored by the merchants. Several attempts were made to establish a moving picture show here but for some reason, they never seemed to succeed.

But we were entertained. These events

along with church socials kept us almost as busy as the schools do today with their concerts, plays and basketball games.

## CIVIL WAR

Three of the village's organizations were and are connected with the wars. They are the GAR, American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary. While the Civil War was before there was a DeLand, there were many Civil War veterans in the township and later in DeLand there was one Revolution soldier. Captain buried in Piatt cemetery; one War of 1812 soldier Marquiss, and one Spanish American soldier Charles Simmons. Of the Civil War veterans, a few went from here in Piatt county, but the majority moved here after the war was over. The paper gave a list of Civil War veterans still alive in Goose Creek township in 1880 which numbered 39. Several of these had been wounded and had received payment for their wounds in 1883.

In 1883, the old veterans met and organized a local GAR Post, called the R. B. Moody Camp No. 186. The Sons of Veterans must have been organized about the same time as they were all mustered in at the same time by Captain J. G. Porter of Clinton. Of the officers elected, Wiley Dewees was chosen as Captain.

In 1890 Mr. Moody and H. G. Porter attended the GAR encampment. At a county encampment, Captain Charles Mansfield held the annual inspection and the Sons gave a War Drama "The Dutch Recruit."

In 1893, there was the first mention of Decoration Day services. In 1895, the old soldiers and the Sons of Vetereans held a Camp Fire at the Wigwam on New Year's Day and had a pleasant meeting during the Day. It was well attended.

Every Decoration Day the old soldiers marched to the cemetery and took part in the services and the decoration of their comrades graves. Year by year their number grew fewer, and they made the march in an automobile. Mr. John Morgan, who died in 1934, was the last to go.

## THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

At the outbreak of the Spanish American War in 1898, DeLand, like most other places developed the War Fever. There was a Piatt County unit organized which included anyone who enlisted from DeLand.

The DeLand unit with Wm. Dewees as commander organized the young men and practiced drilling at the Wigwam with some Sons of Veterans muskets. They drilled primarily in picket and guard duty. But the only one who was ever called up was Charles Simmons. He enlisted on January 2, 1898, and was sent to Manilla during the Phillipine insurrection. He



engaged in a number of skirmishes and expeditions and was a member of the 22nd regiment of Infantry in Co. G. He was honorably discharged on Dec. 11, 1902.

For some unknown reason, probably through some blunder of officials, the rest were never called and never received their discharge papers. They were sworn in for two years with the Bogardus Provisional Regiment Reserves subject to the National Government and Bogardus was to send each a card of Recognition but none was received. The night they were sworn in there was a big crowd at the Wigwam with a program of patriotic speeches and Songs. There were twenty-four men in this unit.

## WORLD WAR I

World War I was a popular war, if any war can be said to be popular. There had been no wars in the lives of most of the population and everyone was anxious to get with it and hang the Kaiser. The soldiers were sent off in a blaze of glory. When they left they usually left on the morning train. The band was on hand and practically all of the citizens to wish them godspeed. Attempts were made to save food and gas and light and whatever needed saving. The women were registered for War work. Meatless days and wheatless days were observed and gasless Sundays were a must. All this saving really contributed to the War drives. The postoffice became a recruiting station. Large Red Cross drives were carried on. The women made bandages and knitted socks, and even the children scraped lint from material to be used in bandages. Each church had a service flag and homes that had sent off a son or brother or husband had service flags in their windows. Bonds were sold. Even the children saved their pennies and bought 25c savings stamps. All this was to make the "World Safe for Democracy."

Goose Creek township sent quite a number of men overseas. The first to go was Carleton Haggard, who also was the first DeLand soldier to be wounded. The first death was that of Peter Huisinga, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Huisinga. He died while he was in training at the University of Illinois. The first death overseas was Charles Larson.

Soon after the return of DeLand's soldiers in 1919, the American Legion Post was organized. They have been in existence ever since. The ranks of the veterans of World War I are thinning, but their places have been taken by veterans of World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Viet Nam Conflict.

The Wardead from World War II are listed as follows: Glen Ensign, Richard Dresback, Hugh Mansfield, Arnold Foster and Stanley New. George Taylor and Kimball Foster (Opal Taylor's brother) were killed in the Korean Conflict.

The later wars have not had the enthusiasm that World War I had. The World had not been made safe for Democracy, and between the new war and the depression of the 1930's, the people were weary. Never-the-less, there was a response of the people of DeLand to the Nation's need. The bond drives went on, people gave to the Red Cross and made bandages and knitted socks as in the other war. They sent packages to the soldiers at Christmas time. They made ditty bags to hold part of his possessions, but this time they gave blood. It meant a trip to Chicago but who minded that if a pint of blood saved a boy? The Christian Church sent a donor for each of the boys represented by a service star on their flag.



The Legion Hall

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

On February 25, 1949, Mrs. Hazel Cannon of District 19, met with a group of eligible women in DeLand to form an Auxiliary Unit. It is known as Lincoln Unit No. 102 since the name was to be the same as its sponsoring American Legion Post.

The first officers were: President, Mrs. Ernest Harper; 1st V.P., Mrs. Ellis Leischner; 2nd V.P., Mrs. John Bickel; Sec., Mrs. A.L. Blosser; Corresponding Sec., Miss Pearl Barnes; Treas., Mrs. Harold Riggs; Historian, Mrs. Vernelle Leischner; Chaplain, Mrs. Melvin Vaughn; Sergeant at arms, Mrs. Hammond Maria; Assistant Sergeant at arms, Mrs. Herbert Made.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. Terry Morrow; 1st Vice, Mrs. Carl Ray Norton; 2nd Vice, Mrs. Wm. Robbins; Sec-Treas. Mrs. Don Persons; Historian, Mrs. Beecher Pittman; Chaplain, Mrs. Wayne Webb; Sergeant at arms, Mrs. Lyle Becker.

The objective of the Legion Auxiliary is two-fold: First, to give assistance to the veteran and his family in time of need. Second, it is a service organization and emphasizes service to the community. When open air shows and concerts were the order in DeLand, the Auxiliary took turns with the Rebekahs making popcorn available to the spectators and also added to their treasury. The blood bank of the county uses the Legion building in making

its annual blood call. Suppers are served to various groups, a food stand at the Homecoming has been a regular project and for sometime, they had regular dances at the Legion Hall. Each Memorial Day the Legion and its Auxiliary takes charge of and plan the services which includes decorating the graves of the Veterans of the Wars. They have cooperated in other community projects where several organizations worked together.

The Legion and the Auxiliary regularly send a girl and a boy to Girls' and Boys' state. This is a step in teaching good citizenship. One year, Joyce Madden was elected Secretary of State in the Girl's State set up, and Claire Persons served two years as counsellor after she had attended in 1965. The Junior group sponsored by the Auxiliary mostly daughters of the Auxiliary have studied the community, visiting the various businesses and have studied foreign lands, dressing a doll each year to represent the country they were studying.

## POLITICS

Politics has always been of importance in Goose Creek township. As early as 1875, the paper notes that the currency question was being discussed at length since an election in Ohio.

On September 6, 1876, the Republicans of Goose Creek formed a club with Seth Langdon acting as chairman. Four of those present were appointed to make a list of officers and candidates and while this committee was debating the matter, P.A. Hamilton made a one and three quarter hour speech. Philip Lewis was elected president; Langdon, vice president; J.B. Haggard, Secretary; and Seymour Marquiss, treasurer. The 65 members present set Saturday for having a pole raising with C.D. Moore as speaker.

1880 was election year, and politics, as it is now, were in the foreground. It was Garfield and Arthur against Hancock and his running mate. Each party had a huge, lively rally during the month of August. The Republicans had for their speaker, the Honorable J.G. Cannon (Uncle Joe). There were 600 to 800 present. They had a quartette who sang stirring songs before the speaking.

The Democrats at their rally raised a Hancock pole purported to be 140 feet high. Dr. Wood was marshall of the day and "bore the honors bravely and blushinglly." Speech making in Moody's grove was by W.E. Lodge of Monticello, J.R. Scott of Champaign. (greenback candidate for congress), and J.O. Cunningham of Champaign who aspired to the State Senate. Mr. Lodge shocked the audience by declaring that the Democratic party was not what it could have been and that the Republican party took their place in 1869 because the democratic party was rotten and "bust"! The question of



"resumption" came up and Lodge declared money lenders to be the drone of society. The faces of the audience were a sight to behold at Lodge's attack upon his own party. He used up so much time that the other speeches had to be cut short. That rally was indeed lively. Garfield won the election.

1884 was a repeat of 1880 only now there was a cornet band to furnish the music. It was Blaine (republican) against Grover Cleveland, democrat. Again there were rallies, a journey to Monticello to a big rally there. There were parade wagons with patriotic decorations with little girls in white dresses riding upon them. The band accompanied each party. Cleveland won. The democrats painted the town red.

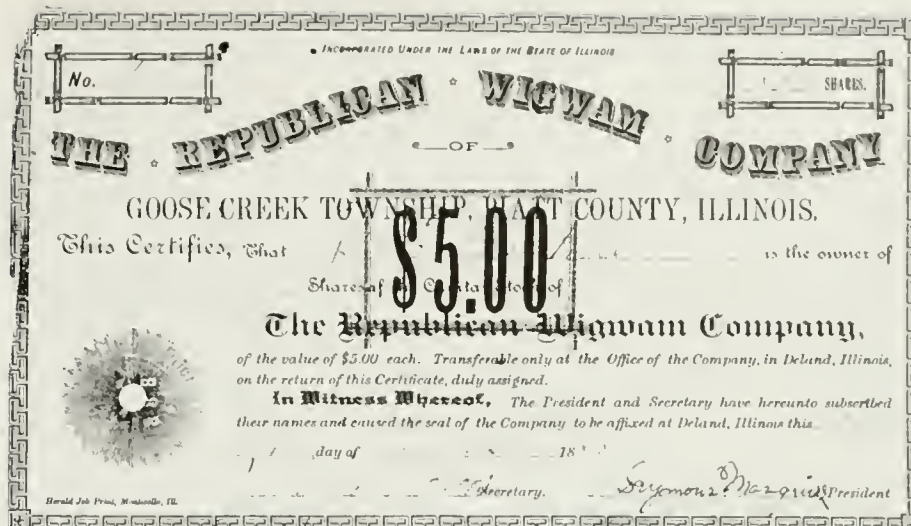
1888 was again a repeat. All through 1888 there was much political activity without a good place to hold rallies. They had speakers, torch light parades, rallies, with members of both parties engaging in the campaign in DeLand just as they were doing in the rest of the country. It was one of the "hottest" political fights in election history. Grover Cleveland had been president for four years and the Republicans were determined to replace him with Benjamin Harrison. They succeeded. It was during this campaign that the wigwam was built.

#### THE WIGWAM

Wigwam seems to many to be a queer name for a political building, but there was a reason for it. Some people believe that its shape-round like an indian teepee, gave it its name. But the truth is that the name is political. Back in 1860 when the Republican party held its convention in Chicago and nominated Abraham Lincoln for president, they met in a huge, circular wooden building built for the convention, known as "The Wigwam." From that time on, any round or Octagonal building used for political purposes by the Republican Party was known as a wigwam.

DeLand's wigwam was built in 1888 and until 1931 was to DeLand what the Transfer House was to Decatur — a unique structure the like of which was found nowhere else in this part of the country. It was built of wood-good stout oak and white pine and painted white. It had eight sides, was 64 feet in diameter and had a center pole which helped to hold up its dome-like roof. It had a small dome and a flag pole on the top which was, on special occasions painted red, white, and blue.

A stage occupied the north provided with both outdoor and indoor scenery, wings at the sides and a storage place beneath the stage. The room for dressing was crowded so the players often dressed away from the building. One Monticello woman once told of being in a play here, dressing at the telephone office a block away, running down the alley, and crawling through a window off the stage to avoid being seen by the audience. The southern section had a



#### Wigwam share certificate

double door set back into the building far enough to allow for a ticket window on each side of the entrance. Tall 16 paned windows, two to a section gave it light. Wainscoating covered the lower part of the walls but the upper walls and the ceiling were papered. The building was heated by stoves, one on each side. Lighting at first was by kerosene lamps and lanterns until the town got electricity. Seating capacity was 500 or 600 and the seats were of the old-fashioned kitchen variety-probably natural color to begin with but later painted white. There are still a few in the town hall (now painted red.) Last, but not least, the building boasted a huge square piano, which did not outlast the building. In the later years a piano was rented from D.B. Troxel for special occasions and moved in when needed.

The Republicans were the only users at first, the democrats stoutly refusing to have anything to do with it. But gradually, it became a Community building. In it, the citizens of DeLand attended Chatauqua and Star Courses, lectures, home talent plays, suppers, festivals of various kinds, school programs such as the Tom Thumb wedding, even commencement and poultry shows, and finally for basketball games. On Memorial Day the two churches held joint services in one of the churches but on Decoration Day they held a program of music and speeches before the march to the cemetery led by the "old soldiers" to decorate the graves of their fallen comrades. If the day was extremely warm, the chairs were moved out into the adjoining grove and the services held there. In later years it was not too com-



Tom Thumb Wedding held on stage at Wigwam.



tortable as there were lots of drafts and on cold nights, everyone pulled his chair up as close as he could get to a stove and still froze.

The Wigwam was built by the Goose Creek township Republicans for a place for political rallies. It was financed by selling shares of stock, forming a corporation, "The DeLand Wigwam Co." The plan at first was to build a temporary building but it seemed better to build a permanent one, so they changed plans. One of the stockholders was sent to Chicago to buy the lumber. After a short time, the building was used as a community building and it served its purpose well for until the Township High School was built, it was the only auditorium in town that was large enough for some of the events. By the 1920's, many of the shareholders had moved away or had died, the building was in a bad state of repair and there was no one to repair it or to pay the taxes that had accumulated. The American Legion was offered the building, but it was at the beginning of the depression and they didn't feel able to bear the expense. Finally it was put up for sale for taxes. Faurest Borton bid it in, paid the accrued taxes and was given a tax title to the property. In the summer of 1931 he had it torn down, salvaging what lumber he could use in a new residence in Monticello. Thus the Unique building became a part of the history of DeLand.

The Wigwam, begun in August of 1888 was finished in October ready for use in the final weeks of the campaign. A torch light procession was formed for the first time the building was used with an address by the Hon. John Curry and a Mr. Zimmerman, both of Farmer City.

On October 26, the Wigwam was dedicated and declared to "stand as a temple of republicanism of which the republicans should feel proud." In spite of the unfavorable weather in the forenoon, the dwellings and business houses were tastefully decorated. At the same time, willing hands were trimming the Wigwam with those majestic colors of red, white and blue. By one o'clock the flag was flying from the pole atop the building; the rostrum, the center pole, and the windows had suitable draperies. On the walls were pictures of prominent republicans — Lincoln, Garfield, Grant, Hayes, Harrison, Fifer, Blaine, Logan and the Supreme Judges. Lincoln's picture, draped with a flag, received the position of honor behind the speaker's stand, with the pictures of the candidates (Harrison for president and Fifer for Illinois governor) on either side.

By one o'clock, people had begun to gather. Short addresses were made by Charles Hughes, Robert Hudgens and others. A line of march was formed to meet the three o'clock train to escort the Honorable M.W. Mathews to the Wigwam where he delivered an address and dedicated the building in the name of

Lincoln, Grant, Garfield, Blaine and Logan and to the protection of American Industries. There were several other speakers. An estimated crowd of 700 crowded into the building with a like number outside. It was a great day!

The next week the national election of 1888 passed off pleasantly for the Republican's whose candidate won over Cleveland. The Republicans gathered at the Wigwam to receive the returns which came to the depot by telegraph and were relayed by messenger to the Wigwam. It was an all night affair for many.

The following Friday night, the Republicans ratified at the Wigwam. (Gave official confirmation of the result of the election.) Again there was a big crowd with a number of important people from a distance. There was music and speeches galore. At that time the west road to the cemetery did not exist and a huge bonfire was built south of the site of the present bridge. Everyone was invited to the celebration including the Democrats, many of whom came. A little amusement was created by the Republicans carrying all the Democrats they could catch around the bonfire. Of course, there was much resistance and a few were miffed, but most took it in good humor. After that, it

became the custom for a bonfire to be built on election or ratification night with the winners carrying the losers around the bonfire. It was not long after this that the building began to be used by different groups and it became a community building, and remained so until the building of the high school provided a better auditorium.

In the election of 1892, it was the Democrat's turn to gloat. Cleveland was elected again. The farmers were blaming the democrats for poor crops and bad times. The Democrats replied that the purchasing clause in the Sheridan Silver Act was to blame.

In 1896, the Republicans formed a McKinley Club. The Democratic candidate was William Jennings Bryan. The Silver question was still the predominant question. There was a big rally at Monticello. According to the paper.

"The Monticello Rally by the Silverites was attended by a large delegation from DeLand. There were several loads of boys and girls dressed in gold and silver style. Sixteen silver horseback couples and one gold couple (remember your history? 16 to 1) and a long line of men on horseback and twenty carriages, all headed by the band. The rear was brought up by Uncle Sam



The Wigwam, 1888 — 1931



trying to raise silver. A large quantity of trappings were used which made a gay looking procession."

McKinley was elected and the DeLand Republicans celebrated as usual with an unusual amount of noise. Mr. Chrisman was badly injured by the rough handling of those who were carrying him around the bonfire.

### TAMER TIMES

After the turn of the century, politics became a little tamer. While there was plenty of rivalry in the small communities, only a few local meetings and speeches were still held and torchlight processions, all day rallies and bonfire shenanigans began to become a thing of the past. The fanfare disappeared. The meetings even then were more county than local. Now there is a Woman's club and a young peoples club in each party. A great effort is made to get out the vote and plenty of interest is shown when candidates visit the community. But the people can see the candidates and hear them speak on television — sometimes too much. It gets a little boring to hear the same man say the same things a couple of dozen times. Times have certainly changed the politics!

### OUR RECORD

Goose Creek has contributed three members to the State Legislature. They were William Hubbart, Seymour Marquiss and Julius N. Rodman. The township has also had several county officials besides the regular supervisor, who was always a member of the county board until recently. Now we elect a member but the present members are all from other townships. Seth Langdon was an early county treasurer; Harry Bickel — County Clerk. Faurest Borton and John William Bickel — each circuit clerk and recorder; and Frank Wrench County Superintendent of Schools. Presently, there is Louis Foltz as Treasurer. Foltz lives in Blue Ridge township just across the line, but I think we can claim him partly, because all of his family community affiliations are in DeLand.

### MR. REPUBLICAN

There have been a number of people called "Mr. Republican" because of their devotion to that party. The late Everett Dirksen won that name in the Senate and Robert Taft before him also was given that title. Well, Goose Creek township has had a couple of Mr. Republicans, too. The first was Ezra Marquiss who was not afraid to march across the square at Monticello with Abraham Lincoln even though he was surrounded by Democrats. Now we have a current Mr. Republican. He is P.E. Fonner of DeLand. (Know as "Doc") who has just finished 30 years of service as Central Committeeman of the Republican Party in Piatt County. He has also held the post of Goose Creek Precinct committeeman for



Fonner store

44 years and will continue in that, but retired from the county position. On May 20, 1972, a recognition dinner was served at the High School to honor him and his wife, Mollie.

More than 300 persons were present and the affair attracted Democrats as well as Republicans from all over Piatt County. Fonner was cited by Governor Oglivie in a letter read at the meeting for "demonstrating the highest degree of honesty, integrity, and loyalty to all the people in the country." He called Fonner's friendship one of his most treasured possessions. Representative (U.S.) Springer, the main speaker, said that Fonner never lost sight of the fact that he represented all the citizens of Piatt County. Fonner not only disagreed with the opposing party but sometimes differed with some in his own party. "When he took his stand, he always kept his word. He consistently did what he thought was right."

Fonner also received a letter from President Nixon. Nixon noted that Fonner had always been the first to vote in his precinct and was the last Republican to go to bed at night after the returns were in. He felt sure that Fonner would continue this practice. Fonner was presented a plaque from the Central Committee along with a number of letters. His wife received a gift of jewelry.

Louis Foltz, the new County Chairman, presided. A Barber Shop quartette from Champaign sang. Rev. John Cockerel of DeLand gave the invocation.

Mr. Fonner came to DeLand in 1916 as a young man and started a grocery in the building now owned and occupied by Henry Franklin's Antique shop. When World War I came on, he sold the store to Jesse McBride but bought it back when he was released from the army. He conducted a store there for 29 years. Part of that

time, he and W.G. Trigg were partners conducting the grocery, a dry goods store, and a confectionary known as The Powder Puff. When the partnership was dissolved, Fonner took the grocery, Trigg the dry goods store and they sold the confectionary to someone else.

Fonner conducted an excellent grocery. His shelves were always well-stocked, he and his clerks were friendly, honest and accommodating. Each year at Christmas time, he held a party for the community's children at which time all were treated to candy, oranges etc, and some adults were treated, too, I suspect. There was always a crowd. When Doc and Mollie were married, they lived in the house where John Remmers now lives. When J.B. Rinehart moved to Monticello, the Fonnors bought their fairly new place and they still live there. The Fonnors have one daughter, Carmen, who married Robert Huisinga and lives in Arizona. The



Fonnors at home.



Huisinga's also have a daughter.

John Vail was probably the "Mr. Democrat" of his day although he was mentioned only as "The Boss Democrat" in the early papers. The democrat who comes nearest that description at the present time, is Roy Vaughn who served quite some time as Democratic Precinct committeeman and a number of terms as County Chairman.

Marlin White is the present Precinct committeeman of the Democratic party in Goose Creek township.

### CLEAN UP! PAINT UP!

This was the motto seen here and there back in 1916 and 17 when Clean Up Campaigns began in DeLand. DeLand was not only THE BIGGEST LITTLE TOWN ON EARTH. It considered itself THE CLEANEST LITTLE TOWN ON EARTH! The clean up campaigns were started by the Woman's Club and carried on by them until the garden club was formed. They took over the job then because it seemed to be their line of work. They continued the annual campaign until 1941 when it was disbanded. After that, it was no longer an annual affair, but was brought up from time to time by the two women's clubs. The town board always cooperated, hauling away the trash on certain designated days.

Nearly everyone cooperated although there was always a few who did not. The town was divided into three or two sections most of the time two, the east and the west. Main street was the dividing line and if three sections were used, the railroad separated the south from the East and West. Each section had a captain and a block worker for each block. A point system was used which designated which conditions were to be considered and the number of points to be taken off if someone did not comply. Judges — usually from out of town toured the village and decided the result. Sometimes one side won, sometimes another. Once the judges simply couldn't find any difference as well as praise. One year there was a let down among the townspeople and they failed to cooperate well. The newspaper listed the number of trash piles, brush piles and manure piles that had not been hauled away. It made some faces a little red. Sometimes, the judges were lavish with their praise. One year the town was so clean that one of the judges — a professor from the U of I, was so impressed with the spirit of the Campaign that he used DeLand as one of his examples in his classes. Another time one of the judges was a newspaper woman from Decatur and she was so impressed that she gave DeLand a big write up in the Decatur paper.

Sometimes Clean Up Week did not end with the Judges announcing the result. Programs were held in which this was done. The schools helped out by giving

Maypole dances in the park. One year, the whole town concentrated their efforts on getting rid of flies. The children collected the flies they had killed, showed them at the program and prizes were given to the children with the most dead flies! At one program Richard Gantz, then a very small lad, appeared on the platform dressed in a black velvet suit with short pants and recited the following verse:

"The early fly is the one to swat.  
It comes before the weather's hot;  
And sits around and files its legs,  
And lays at least two million eggs!"

Miss Bondurant and Mrs. Trenchard were back of the clean up campaigns in the first place. They had won the cooperation of the woman's club and the town board. But they didn't stop there. One year, Miss Bondurant made a lot of wire hooks and organized the grade school children to go over the school ground and neighboring parts and pick up all the paper that had blown into fences. One year the grade school boys cleaned the park. Another time, the Boy Scouts turned out to get the job done. In 1928, the Woman's Club planted a Christmas tree in the park. Sometimes a tea was given at the Library Club room for the Judges. Often a motion picture was shown at the program.

In 1922, a silver loving cup was given to the side that won. That was a big year. Practically everyone cooperated. The judges noted that one alley had been swept and they saw one woman clipping grass on the boulevard with a pair of scissors. At the program that night, both pastors and the mayor, J.E. Bickel, spoke. The East side won so the loving cup was presented to its captain, Mrs. Ethel Bickel. When she accepted the cup, she tried to console the West side by saying she was sorry they did not have a cup. At this point, she received a surprise for a china vase was presented as a consolation prize. Both loving cup and vase are kept at the library.

One year the village hauled away 150 loads of trash. After 1941, the occasional cleanup was sponsored by the two Woman's Clubs and the Household Science Club.

There is talk in one of the clubs of a Clean-Up campaign this spring. It won't be such a chore as it was in the earlier days. Since the state shut down the village dump, people haul much of their trash to the landfill at Monticello and many of the citizens use the services of the Leach Disposal to get rid of the junk each week. The kids wouldn't have much luck at piling up dead flies because they are not so numerous. Plenty of them though. Some of the citizens have already started on sprucing up their properties. New fronts have been put into some of the stores. The library is being redecorated. It is to be hoped that everyone will get the fever and make our town a place of beauty for the 100th anniversary activities.

### THERE USED TO BE GYPSIES AND TRAMPS

Gypsies were a part of our way of life in the 1800's and in the early 1900's. Every summer, at least one band of the Romany nomads came through the village. Sometimes they camped along the road that is now route 10 just north of the cemetery. Sometimes they camped on vacant lots between the Wigwam and the calaboose (creamery) which stood just south of the creek on Main Street. And sometimes they passed on through, camping on a grassy road called Lover's Lane by many or Scratch Out Lane by Jesse Combes. It entered the Monticello road about half way there. Usually, they paused in town while the women toured the town, going from door to door asking for handouts or offering to tell one's fortune. The children of the town were mostly afraid of them and made tracks for home when the Gypsies arrived. And no wonder, the grown ups had heard tales of gypsies kidnapping children and had given their offspring orders to rush home immediately if gypsies came to town. Most of them obeyed. Some even hid under their beds! The gypsies were not hard to spot. They usually were dressed in dirty, ragged clothes in gaudy colors. They had dark complexions and they traveled in dilapidated wagons drawn by poor guant, half starved horses. The writer remembers one time of passing a gypsy camp with her father driving their plump, yellow pony named Golddust. One man came out and ran alongside the buggy for a considerable distance trying to persuade my father to trade horses. My father simply kept shaking his head and continued on his way until the gypsy finally gave up and turned back.

Tramps were also to be reckoned with and no one was particularly comfortable when any were in town. A lot of people fed them for fear they would anger the tramp and cause him to do them harm. When it was cold, the village sometimes sheltered them for a night in the calaboose but the town marshal saw to it that they were on the first freight coming through the next day. Amusing incidents sometimes occurred such as the time a tramp came to the door of Mrs. Margaret Murphy. As he stood there, a small wren pecked at his hat. The tramp laughed and went off, forgetting what he had come for. Harriet Bowsher's father always insisted that all tramps couldn't be bad. One had bowed his head and returned thanks for the food they had given him! Most of the tramps came in on the daily freight and departed on the next train out, touring the town for handouts between times.

There was an abundance of peddlers selling this or selling that. They were supposed to have a license to sell if from out of town but many probably got by without it. But there were two peddlers who came each year and would have been missed if they had not shown up. They



were Billy, the umbrella man, who mended umbrellas and also sharpened knives and scissors. And Sassfras Bob who supplied excellent sassafras for the making of tea in the spring. It was supposed to be good for the blood and likely did have merit. Anyhow, it was good.

Mrs. Murphy also told a story about Billy. She gave him an old suit of Raymonds. Billy went out along the railroad track, changed clothes and came back to town. Some one recognized the suit and told it. Raymond was kidded for years about it.

One year, a gypsy woman gave birth to a baby girl somewhere in the northern part of Piatt County. What did she name it? Piatta!

When automobiles became plentiful, the gypsies took to driving cars and the colorful caravan became a thing of the past. Tramps, too, found better ways of traveling and are now a matter of history. Bob and Billy are long deceased and peddlers are no more. But they are not needed. You can buy anything at a supermarket. Or can You? What about nostalgia?

#### DELAND CITIZENS

Some of the people who lived in DeLand and Goose Creek township after the founding of DeLand and some who live there now follow:

The people who settled in the township often settled near those whom they knew previously. For instance, the many German families settled in what was later called the Kentuck area (the school was called Kentuck) and to this day you will find many of the descendants of those families in that area and to the west of DeLand. The Fitzwater family and its related families lived east of DeLand. The early Marquisses and Piatts lived in the southeast corner and related families still live in that area.

Probably the largest family group of families in Goose Creek at the present time are the Huisingas — all descended from one Englebert Huisinga who came to America from Germany with his two brothers — Warner and John — in 1888. There are twelve of the name Huisinga listed in the current telephone book. Bert, as he was called, was sixteen years old when he came to the United States. His two brothers had made several trips — sometimes three or four times a year, accompanying and caring for fine, fancy coach horses. They brought the horses for two uncles — Gebhart and Tony Altman, brothers of their mother, who lived in Watseka, Illinois, and sold them.

The Huisinga boys and their sister Feekalina had become orphans at an early age and were reared by their grandmother. When Warner and John decided to make America their home, they also decided to bring the younger brother with them. The older sister, who had always

looked after her brothers was by that time married to Anton E. Grethe and had three small children of her own — Antonia, Augusta and Emil. She thought she should continue to look after her brothers, so the Grethes, too, pulled up stakes and emigrated, arriving in 1890.

The first stop was in the Kentuck neighborhood, where there were many friends and former neighbors from Germany, and where they were among German-speaking people, which made it much easier to pick up the English language.

Bert Huisinga first did farm work in this neighborhood. In 1896, he married Mary Remmers, daughter of Peter and Anna Bruhn Remmers of Logan county. They made their home southwest of DeLand from that time on.

The Huisingas became the parents of a large family of children and most of those children or their descendants now live on farms in Piatt county. The children were:

Harm B. who married Geneva McMillen and had two sons, James and Joe who are Goose Creek farmers. Joe is the Huisinga whose grandchildren are descended from the Marquisses, the McMillens, the Huisingas and the Lubbers. After Geneva's death, Harm married Louise Barton and by her had Raymond, Rosetta Slazon and Lynette. Harm is deceased. Louise has since married Homer Prine.

John Huisinga, married 1. Bernice Olson. 2. Hilma Bowdre. They have six children, some of them married and away from here.

Peter died of the flu in 1918 when he was a student at the University of Illinois and was taking ROTC training.

Bert married Geneva Goken. Their children are Beulah who married Richard Robson and has three children, and Dale who married Nancy Heath and has four children.

Ervin Huisinga (deceased) married Marjorie Roos. Their son Lindell married Judith Bliss, has three sons and lives on the farm his father farmed. Ervin's daughter, Judith, married Sam Carmer, has two sons and a daughter and lives in Champaign.

Milford Huisinga (deceased) married Mary Ann Bragg (deceased). They were the parents of three children — Linden, and Donald who both farm and Barbara who married W.J. Lee. They have four children. Linden married Marilyn Patterson and has five children.

Anne Huisinga married Dorr Simer and had one son — also named Dorr. Then Junior Dorr married Jean Felz and has five children. They live in DeWitt county. Dorr Senior is deceased and Ann lives in Monticello.

Lola is the wife of Edwin Reed. They have four children — Mary Ann, Joan, Carol and Jim. They live just south of DeLand.

Mr. Englebert Huisinga died in 1963.

Mrs. Huisinga is now in her nineties and at the present time is in the hospital. They celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary shortly before Mr. Huisinga's death.

Warner Huisinga's son, Harm J. also lived in Goose Creek for a while. One of his daughters — Lorene — married Dale Robinson and lives in the southeast corner of the township on Da Fitzwater's place. Dale is a grandson of Da.

The Grethe family arrived in the United States in March of 1890. After living in the Kentuck neighborhood for awhile, they settled on a farm near Bement. From there they moved to a farm north of DeLand and finally into DeLand itself where Mr. Grethe became custodian of the DeLand school building. Besides the three born in Germany, the Grethes had seven other children — three of whom died in infancy. Those who lived to grow up were Gasena, Janetta, Ottoline and Lenora. All of the children graduated from DeLand High school except Lenora who was a senior when they moved to Decatur. And all the girls but Gasena were teachers, teaching mostly in the Piatt County schools.

In 1908 and 09, Antonia and Augusta spent almost a year visiting relatives in Germany, but came home a little early because of the illness of their mother and the death of their baby sister, born while they were in Germany.

When World War I came on, Emil enlisted in the army. Before the United States became a part of it, Emil received a letter from Germany instructing him to return to Germany for army duty. When Mr. and Mrs. Grethe became citizens of the United States, they neglected to take out papers for Emil, presumably because of his age, a mere infant. And over the years they neglected doing so. You can believe that Mr. Grethe lost no time in setting forces in motion to make his son a citizen when that letter came. Emil married and is now deceased as are Antonia, Augusta and Gasena. Emil's wife was Beulah Loveless of Webster City, Iowa. They had one son, Antonia married Dr. Robert Hathaway, then of Cisco. They had two children — Loretta and Dale. Augusta married Arthur Gill, a former DeLand teacher and had three sons. The Gills lived in Keokuk, Iowa. Gasena married Jim Quinn and had four children. After Jim's death she married Roy Crouthamel. Gasena died recently. Living are Janetta, who married Aubrey Milligan. After many years on a farm southwest of here, they retired to Monticello. Their only son, Robert, lives with them. Ottoline is Mrs. Earl Loveless of Webster City, Iowa. Their only daughter lives in Denver. Lenora, Mrs. Homer Byrd is living in Arizona. Her husband is deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Roos of DeLand have lived in Goose Creek township since their marriage. Chris was born here. Mrs. Roos was Pearl MacGuire. Their family



consists of a daughter Marjorie, who lives in DeLand since the death of her husband, Ervin Huisinga, and Mack Roos who is married and lives in the northern part of Goose Creek township. Marjorie has six grandchildren. Mack's son, John Dean lives in DeLand and their daughter Mary Rose Roos is married and lives away from here.

The Roos Family also originated in Germany. Chris's grandfather — Christian Roos came to the United States to Logan county in 1855. He married Magdaline Meyer a little later and settled on a farm there. In 1860, their son John was born. John lived with his father until 1886 when he came to Piatt county and rented a farm until 1896 when he bought a farm north west of DeLand. In 1908, he built a modern bungalow in DeLand where he lived in his retirement. His son Chris now lives upon the farm northwest of DeLand.

Mr. John Roos married Dena Lubbers who was born in Germany and came to Illinois in 1870 with her father Reemt Lubbers (wife Gerhart Boekoff.) The Roos's also had a daughter Anna who married John Ammann.

Anna Roos and John Ammann live directly west of DeLand. Her husband is deceased. They had two daughters — Irlene, who married Wayne Honselman and lived in Goose Creek township until his death. She is a teacher in special education in the Monticello school system. The other daughter is Esther who married Harold Floyd (also deceased) and lives west of her mother's home. The Floyd's had a son Philip, who is married and has two children — David and Theresa. They live away from here.

John Ammann was the son of another John Ammann who was an early merchant in DeLand, running a boot and shoe shop. The mother was Margaret Duvall. After her husband's death, she continued to live in the house now occupied by Clarence Smith. I believe there was another son named Will.

Peter Remmers, the father of Mrs. Bert Huisinga, was reared in Germany. He came first to Logan County and engaged in farming. In 1888, he bought land in Goose Creek township and also in Willow Branch and moved here. He retired to DeLand in 1909, purchasing the house now occupied by Lola Trigg. He died in 1913.

He married Anna Bruhn, a daughter of Peter and Annie Bruhn, who came to Logan County in 1872. They had several children: Jerko, who continued to live in Logan County; Vandaline (Mrs. Lubbert Lubbers), Anna (Mrs. Ike Lubbers), Mary (Mrs. Bert Huisinga), Peter, Kate (Mrs. Otto Lubbers), John, Jennie (Mrs. Talbert Heller) and Henry.

John Remmers married Grace Swisher of DeLand. They had three children, Harold and Evelyn and Ernest. Harold married Doris Gaskill in 1944. Their three living children are Allynex who married

Virgil Gaskill in 1964; Beverly married Earl Cox in 1968; and Betty Lou.

Evelyn married Max Campbell, son of D. Forrest Campbell. Their daughter Marilyn married John Grubb. Their three children are Julia, Kathleen and Karen Joy. Evelyn and Max have a second daughter.

Ernest Remmers married Mabel Elizabeth White of Manito. Mrs. Remmers died in 1972. Their four children are Harry of Littleton, Colorado; John of Weldon; Mrs. Harry McClure of Gibson City and Ruth Remmers of Normal.

Jennie Remmers married Talbert Heller, but died very soon. Talbert was the son of Jim and Minnie Heller who lived in DeLand after he retired. Henry married Gladys Souders of DeLand.

The Souders family came to Piatt county in 1896 and moved to DeLand in 1897. Jim Souders was born in Iowa, Alice at Brooklyn, Illinois. The family lived here until 1914 when Jim joined a crew of interior decorators from Champaign and went to Florida where he lived until 1946, dying at the age of 80. Mrs. Souders had passed away before he left here. Mr. Souders was the first rural carrier out of DeLand. He also acted as village clerk for some time. He was also a painter and paper hanger in the DeLand Community and was a member of the DeLand Band. The Souders had three sons and a daughter. Ralph, the eldest, was killed while on duty as a policeman in Chicago. He was married and the father of two sons.

Walter lived in Piatt County most of his life. He had five sons and one daughter. The daughter is Mrs. Richard Loney (Darlene) of DeLand. Donald died in California in 1965. His wife and one son, Robert Stuart, survived.

Gladys Remmers (Mrs. Henry Remmers) was the only daughter. She and Walter were twins. The Remmers have two children — Richard and Imogene. The Loneys have a son, Dan and a daughter, Diane who is married to Ralph Musick.

An interesting note on the Souders Family. Alice Stuart Souders was a descendant of Mary, Queen of Scots. Her father served under William of Orange. Mrs. Remmers has her mother's portion of his Orange sash of that military order.

Richard Loney of the above sketch is the son of George and Stella Loney. He has two sisters, Maxine and Sara. A third sister died when young. He also has a brother James. All are married and have families. Only Richard lives here. Both George and Richard have been in the service of the Postal Department. George was carrier for 37 years and Richard is the present carrier. George's brother Charles (deceased) also served as a rural carrier earlier. Charles was a Methodist minister, serving churches in Pennsylvania. He also served as a singing evangelist. George and Charles has a sister Hazel who is married and has a son and lives in

Wisconsin.

John Loney, their father, and Eliza Jane Gray, lived in Piatt County from 1902 on and moved to DeLand in 1912. Eliza Jane's father was Salathiel Gray, a Civil War Veteran. He married Sara Eva Magee in 1866, having come to Illinois from Ohio in the 1850's. They lived in or near DeLand from 1907 on. They had quite a large family, including Grace and Rebecca, and Frank and Otis who were young people when the family moved to DeLand. Grace and Rebecca taught in the local schools for several years. Frank and Otis both married; Otis to Florence Simmons, a local girl. All of the Grays are now deceased. Florence Simmons Gray lives in Decatur.

Florence Simmons Gray was the daughter of Charles Simmons who was DeLand's only veteran of the Spanish American War. He spent three years in the Phillippines. He worked several years at the Porter grain elevator and then became custodian of the school. His wife was a sort of practical nurse or midwife and cared for many of the new babies in the community and their mothers. In those days, women had their children at home, not in a hospital. Their children were Ida Cooper, Florence Gray, Helen and Roy and Elmer. All moved away from DeLand.

I have one vivid recollection of Charlie Simmons. He was a kindly man and usually very accommodating. When that kind of man is in a school, the kids sometimes take advantage of his disposition. Once while he was there, the high school girls got tired of sitting humped over at desks that were spaced too widely. It seems that a year or two before there was a number of rather large girls in high school and the spaces had to be widened for their comfort. Then this skinny bunch came along and the seats needed changing. We went to Mr. Simmons and asked him to please change the desks. He bluntly refused. He had changed them not long ago and he wasn't going to move them again! But we begged and wheedled until he gave up and agreed to put them down if we'd take them up. The next day, the girls all arrived with screwdrivers in their hands. Mr. Weedman was home with the mumps. Mrs. Weedman was in charge. It seemed like a propitious time. The day was spent leaning over — ostensibly reading — but actually loosening the seats. If Mrs. Weedman caught on (and I am sure she did), she said not a word. Everyone lingered after school and arranged his seat to his liking. The next school day found the desks in the new place and everyone was happy. I wonder if we even said thank you to Mr. Simmons!

The Lubbers were numerous in the Kentuck community. This family is hard to write about because there were so many with the same first names. I tried at one time, while teaching at Kentuck, to get



them straight in my mind. Naomi Meyers said: "Don't try it. I've been in the family for 20 years and have never got them straight!" It seems that there were two brothers who came from Germany about 1850. Lubbert Lubbers and his wife, Martha Ann Wiggers had seven children. Ella married Warner Huisinga, Reemt married Fanny Bolson, Dena married John Huisinga, Eike married Anna Remmers, Anna married Hermann Bruns, and Fanny married Peter Remmers. They moved in 1876 to a farm in Goose Creek township. After Mr. Lubber's death, his wife married his brother Eike. They had two sons, Otto who married Katie Remmers and Sweeter who married Clara Wacks. Otto and Katie Remmers Lubbers had two daughters — Mabel, who married Leaman Quick and Roberta who married Byrl Kidd. Mabel lives at Monticello and Roberta in Goose Creek township. Roberta and Byrl have three children — Robert, at home, Sylvia who married Frank Lefrano and has a small daughter and Loretta who teaches. Sweeter, Jr. lives in the Kentuck neighborhood. He married Helen Kirkland.

Lubbert Lubber's brother Otto also came to America in 1870. After living in Logan county for awhile, they came to Goose Creek township and settled. They were the parents of Eike; Fanny, the wife of Chris Roos (probably the grandfather of the present Chris Roos or an uncle); Otto, George and Nettie Rohlf's and Dena, the wife of John Roos — the parents of the present Chris Roos.

Otto married Kate Remmers, daughter of Jurko and Wendeline Tanhoe. They were the parents of Dena (Mrs. Lewis Meyer); Winnie (Mrs. Jurgan Weets) (parents of Albert Weets); Cornelious Weets and Floyd Weets, now all of Monticello. Fannie (Mrs. Chris Lubbers), Reemt, Jurko, Kate and Otto. Reemt Lubbers, son of Otto and Katie Remmers married Anna E. Lubbers and had two daughters — Katie and Marguerite, (Mrs. Seymour Knisely). Katie married Silas Cook and had one son — Ronald who lives on his parents' farm in Kentuck neighborhood.

Chris and Fanny Lubbers moved to Colorado. They had ten children: Otto, Eike, Katie, Christian, Peter, Fanny, Anora and Rudolph. Their daughter Anora, the wife of Clarence Smith, lives in DeLand and teaches 4th grade in the DeLand-Weldon grade school. Clarence, assisted by the oldest son, James, runs a garage in DeLand. They have two other boys — Dean and Jerry. All are married. Clarence is the son of Alva and Dena Heikens Smith. Alva Smith was killed when a horse threw him when Clarence and his brother Essel were quite small. Mrs. Smith continued to live in the home they had built in DeLand. The Heikens family was quite large. Most of the family moved to Iowa.

Eike Lubbers, brother of Anora, lives in

Missouri but did live here. He married Esther Ferry. They had Jean, Joan and Richard. All but Jean now live in Missouri. Jean is the wife of Joe Huisinga. Their children are Danny, Larry, Darrell, Gail and Susan.

The Meyers family is also related to the Lubbers. Harm Meyers was the son of Lewis Meyers. He married Naomi Vaughn — sister of Roy Vaughn. They had two children Dale and Kathleen (Mrs. Aritis Foster). The Fosters have two sons and a daughter. Lewis Meyers wife was Dena Lubbers, daughter of Otto Lubbers and Kate Remmers. Lewis Meyers other son was George Meyers who married Belle Regnold. They had three children — Rincha who married Jurko Lubbers; Hermann, who married Louise Diss; and Pearl who married Darst Colvin.

Jurko Lubbers, Mrs. Meyers brother, married Rincha Meyers and had two children, Arthur and a daughter. Arthur lived on the Lubbers farm in Kentuck district but has moved to DeWitt county. I believe he has passed on. They had two children. Jurko Lubbers later married Lura Richards of Monticello.

Herman and Louise have four children. Marjorie who married Gilbert Price had five children — Marilyn (VanEtta), Phylliss Reynolds, Joanne Reynolds, Laura Lamb and Sandra Harris. There are twelve children in these families.

Robert and Betty Sharp Meyers live in Clinton. They have three boys. Bruce and his first wife had four children — Curtis, Mary Margaret Morgan, Donna and Esther. He has four step children by his second wife Karin. They are Kristy, Carmella, Lynn and John Colombo.

Marlene (Mrs. Wm. Dean) of Virginia have two sons — Roger and Blaire and a daughter — Debra.

One more family that I believe is related to the Lubbers is Mrs. Ralph Gilbreath.

I hope I have all these people put into the proper category, but I doubt it. Good luck if you try.

The Goken family also came to DeLand from Germany. There were several children including Goke, Jennie and Grace who all lived at one time or another in DeLand. Jennie married a Montana man named Morland and had several children. Grace never married. All are deceased. The only Goken in Goose Creek township that I know of is Geneva Goken, wife of Bert Huisinga.

Most of the Gokens settled around Weldon. The mother was widowed early, but with the help of her daughters managed to make a living.

There are four of John Bickel's family living today — Claude, Daisy, Lola and Opal. Daisy and Lola live in DeLand. Daisy was the wife of John Adams who was one of three brothers living in this community. John was custodian of the Township High School for many years. Most of their married life was spent in

DeLand but they lived in Flora and another town for a while. John has passed away. Mrs. Adams is in her eighties and spends her winters with their only daughter, Alberta, who lives in South Dakota. Alberta was a nurse in World War II and received many honors. Leslie was an officer in that war. At the present time he is teaching in Puerto Rico. He taught at the Academy at Onargo for many years, and also taught in DeLand. Roland became an undertaker in Seattle. He is deceased. Gaylord worked in the postoffice here and at Champaign. He is now retired.

Another Adams was Jake, who for a long time ran a dray in DeLand. He married first Viola McNeir who had a daughter, Gladys, now Mrs. Lona Combes. After Viola's death, he married Esther Marquiss. He had children by both wives. His and Violas children were Pauline who married Lyle Hill and Kenneth (deceased) who married Margaret Diegal.

The third Adams brother was George Adams who lived east of town. He married Maggie Gordan. His sons Gordan and Winfield are deceased. Keith lives in Monticello and Katherine Newberry at Farmer City. Mrs. Adams — a graduate of the first high school class — died recently. She was in her nineties.

Daisy Adams (Mrs. John) is an accomplished pianist and played the organ and the piano at the Methodist church for many years. She started playing at a very early age.

Lola Bickel Trigg, the daughter of John Bickel is probably the oldest person living today who has lived here continuously. Her sister, Daisy, is probably the oldest person born in DeLand. Lola married Charles Trigg following his return from the service in 1919. They had two children, Jim and Charlene. Jim married Elsie Crosby and they have a boy and a girl both married. Charlene who married Raymond Turnipseed has a son Vic. Jim and his mother have the undertaking business left by Mr. Trigg. This business has been in the family for over seventy years starting with the grandfather, George Trigg about 1902.

George Trigg married and had sons Charles and William and a daughter, Eva. After his wife's death he married Ida Troxell and had twins, Ivan and Irene. Ivan is an undertaker in California. Irene (deceased) married Gene Sparrow. They had one son, Robert, who married one of the Loney girls.

William Trigg, long time drygoods merchant, was the son of George Trigg. He married Bess Fleming of Weldon. They have one daughter, Shirley, who married David Teets. The Teets have two children, Tammy and David. Bill, as everyone calls him, had hip joint disease when he was in grade school. He is one of those admirable people who has never let his disability prevent success in his chosen career, nor has he let it affect his cheer-



fulness. He was Supervisor of Goose Creek Township for one term.

Chalmer Cox married Lois Howe in 1935 and lived in Mansfield until 1961, when they moved to DeLand. They live about two miles west of DeLand. They have two sons, George and Kenneth. George with his wife, the former Sandra Thibideau and their two children live at Warsaw, Indiana.

Kenneth married Beverly Remmers of this township. They also have two children and live near Mansfield.

Two of the children of Harve and Ollie Clemons live in this area. They are Lorin Clemons who lives west of DeLand and Cecil Clemons and wife Golda who live in DeLand. Cecil and Golda have a son Duane who married Beverly Smith, daughter of Willard and Faun Smith. They have three children and live in Decatur. Cecil was township assessor for a number of years. He is now retired. Golda also has retired from her work at the local elevator.

Willard Smith gained fame as a raiser of bees. He sold considerable honey and took prizes at the State Fair for his products. Faun was the former Faun Plankenhorn. They have two daughters and one son. Ruby who married Frank Anderson and lives in California. They have two or three children. Beverly who married Duane Clemons have three children, two sons and a daughter. Richard who married one of the Sprague girls, have two or three children. Willard died just recently.

Bert Smith and wife Mattie Lee and their two daughters came to Piatt county in the spring of 1935 to a Madden farm near Centerville. Two years later they moved to DeLand. At that time Bert was selling McConnon products but gave that up to become janitor of the grade school and the Methodist church. For awhile he did farm work until he retired. Rachel the oldest daughter married Hammond Maria and has one daughter, Karen. They live in Florida. Norma, the second daughter, married Lyle Becker and had three children, Kenneth and Kathy (twins) and David. Kathy is deceased. Later she married William Robbins and they have one son, Joseph.

Donald Persons came to Piatt county in 1935. Roberta Nodacker, his wife, came in 1941. They have four children, Karl Jon, Earl Glenn, Clair Lea and Lois Fay. All four are married and live away from here. Donald's mother, Jennie Leevy Persons came from Pennsylvania around 1883. They settled near DeLand moved to Weldon and then returned to a farm in the Wisegarver school district. Mrs. Persons lives in Weldon since her husband's death. Mrs. Persons sister was Mrs. Sherman Elder of DeLand. Mr. Elder was in the concrete business here. His name is on many DeLand sidewalks. (I believe that one of the Leevy girls also married a Goken from DeLand.) Mr. Elder made urns which are numerous in the DeLand cemetery. There were a number of Elder children — Gertrude, Hazel, Lola, Howard, Leslie and perhaps others. They

are all away from here. The Don Persons live on a farm owned by Martha Hursh northeast of DeLand. Mrs. Person's parents also lived in DeLand for awhile. Mr. Nodacker is deceased. Mrs. Nodacker makes her home at Evenglo Lodge, a Methodist home in Pontiac.

Harold and Ollie Clifton have retired from the farm where they lived for many years east of DeLand. Their son Wendell lives on the farm now. He married Joan Taylor. They have two daughters and a son. The daughters are married. Mrs. Ollie Clifton's mother, Mrs. Burkett, also lives in DeLand.

The Leischner family have lived in the township since the 1880's. John Leischner and family moved here from Mansfield in 1881. His wife was Kathryn Long of Pennsylvania. Their children were Rosa Mathews, Elizabeth Wigginton, Margaret Merry, Sally Cundy, all living away from here after their marriages, and Daniel, Edward and Simon who were farmers in Goose Creek. When John and his wife retired, they came to DeLand and lived out on East 3rd street — the last house in that part of town today. Daniel and his wife, Annie lived just south of the Leischner home today, which was the home of Edward Leischner for many years. Edward married Winnie Ellis. They were the parents of Sebern Holforty, Darlene Thompson (formerly Darlene Walden), Marjorie, John, Ellis and Vernelle. John is now living on this farm with his wife, Kathryn Wolfe, (a home ec. teacher in the local high school), and his son John. (John was Supervisor for quite some time.) The daughter, Rebecca, married Jim Hicks and has two children and lives in Monticello. Richard is also married with a child and lives away from here. Ellis lives in DeLand, and is in the insurance business. I believe he also farms the Simon Leischner place southwest of DeLand. Ellis' wife, Henrietta, is the postmaster at the present time. They have four children — Judith (Mrs. Sam Tucker) who has two daughters; Edward who has two children and lives in DeLand; Robert and Connie, both of whom are married and live away from here. Vernelle, married, lives west of DeLand, but in DeWitt county. He farms his mother's farm. He and Margaret have three sons. The father, Ed Leischner, was postmaster for a little while but died during his term. Mrs. Leischner moved to DeLand after her husband's death. She also is now deceased.

Simon, the third son, lived with his wife, Dr. Susie Ryals, an osteopath who practiced in DeLand for sometime. They had no children.

Gaylord Madden, cashier at the DeLand State Bank and Sally Stone, daughter of Lee Stone of this township, were married in 1922 and moved immediately to DeLand. They have lived here ever since except for

three years spent in Champaign. They have two children — Gaylord Neil who is assistant cashier at the bank. Neil has two daughters — Mary Frances and Sherri Lee. Neil's wife, Sally Ann, is the daughter of George Harris who ran a grocery here. Gaylord and Sally's daughter, Joyce, taught at Bloomington. She married James Anderson of Normal and lives in Normal. They have one small son.

Howard and Hattie Bartison have always lived in this township. Their children are Louise, formerly wife of Harm Huisinga, now wife of Homer Prine. Louise has three children — Raymond, Rosetta and Lynette. The other Bartisons are Viola McCartney and Ernest (deceased).

Helen and Mary Baker live in their father's property in DeLand. Helen worked for many years as a clerk at Trigg's drygoods. She is now working at the Library as a substitute. Mary works at the Singer Sewing Center, Country Fair at Champaign. Their sister, Beulah, married Paul Primmer and lives on the Baker farm east of DeLand. They have three grown children — Terry, Paula and Cheryl.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Maden has two daughters — Joyce and Freda. They are both married and live away from here. Both have children. Everett is caretaker of the township cemeteries — DeLand and three old rural cemeteries. He has also studied for the ministry in the Baptist church. Helen's mother, Mrs. Beasley, also live in DeLand. Her father is deceased. Everett's father was George Maden.

Ted Bell's in the Kentuck district have several boys who have turned out to be ministers. They are now all away from here.

There are two Buchanan families — those of George and Frank. George married Margaret White, daughter of Ben White and his wife who lived here most of her life. Margaret is deceased. They have a family of five boys and two girls, all married. Paul was killed in an accident. The boys are Gene, Bennie, Danny, Keith and Kenneth. Only Kenneth lives in DeLand. Nola and Nancy are the daughters. Both have children. George and his boys are in the carpenter business.

Frank and Iciss Buchanan also had several boys and one girl. All are married and away from DeLand. Frank is deceased. Iciss still lives here.

There are several Burton families in the community. Those in DeLand are Lavonne Burton, who works at Capital Records in Champaign. She has two boys — Dewayne and Harold Dean in Farmer City and Joyce in Clinton. She has three grandsons and a granddaughter. Two of the grandsons are late acquisitions!

Mattie Burton works at the hospital in Monticello. Her two boys and a girl are all married and away from here.

Arthur Burton and his wife had several children, now all grown.



John Murphy of the DeLand Tribune was at one time in the lumber business in Monticello. He learned the printers trade at Monticello and for ten years was foreman of the Taylorville Republican. He came to DeLand in 1898 to help out in an emergency on the paper and stayed to buy it. He married Margaret Schackel. They had a son Raymond and three daughters — Leota, wife of Charlie Gilmore and lives at Leroy; Haidee who married Jesse Gray and lives at Champaign and Marian, wife of Dr. Richards of Champaign. At their father's death, Raymond took charge of the paper and ran it until he retired. He has since died. He married Ersa Hutchinson of Weldon. They have two daughters — Mary Margaret and Dorothy. There are several grandchildren.

Roy and Grace Mullvain moved here from Fisher in the 1940's. They lived on the farm where the Cox's live now. Roy has a shop on the hill where he works on electrical motors. He has been supervisor of Goose Creek township for several years.

Grace is an assistant at the postoffice. She plays the organ at the Methodist church. They have two children — Philip who is married and lives at El Paso. They have three children. Their daughter, Janet, is married to Jerry Palmer and lives east of DeLand and has one child.

There are three Nortons in DeLand beside their mother who is Pearl Norton, wife of the late Charles E. Norton. They formerly farmed southeast of DeLand. Charles Norton Junior also lives on a farm near DeLand. He is married to Ruth Anderson, daughter of Ellsworth Anderson, long time resident of DeLand. They have one son, James who is married to Norma Ruth Mitchell, has four children and does carpenter work in Monticello. The second son is Carl Ray Norton, part owner of the DeLand Locker plant. He married Mary Lou Webb, daughter of Ted Webb. They have one daughter.

Robert Norton works at the water plant. He is married and he and Marlene have three children, a son and two little girls.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Rule have three daughters — Genelle, Betty and Wilma. All are married. Genelle lives here, the wife of Irvin Trimble. They have two girls. Earl works for Mr. Trenchard.

The Trimbles have lived in the community for many years. The father was Carson Trimble. The boys in this community are: Arthur, Irvin, Wilbur and Willie. They have a sister, Norma. All have families. Leo Trimble, son of Carl also lives here.

The Parrish family was a large family. The father was Robert Parrish, and the mother's name was Elizabeth. They lived here for many years celebrating their anniversary each year on January first with most of their children present. The children who stayed in this community were Sherman, Roy and Fred and Will. Will married and had three or four

children and lived here for a time after his wife's death. John married Jennie Gates. Their one daughter is Mrs. Paul White of near DeLand, who has a son and a daughter. Sherman married Carrie Broadwell. Their children were Robert Paul, Clarence, Kenneth, Max, Veda Mae and Betty Williams. Kenneth and his wife, Betty Rudisill have one son. Kenneth works at the High School as custodian and Betty is a nurse at Kirby Hospital. Their father, Sherm, was custodian of the Carnegie Library for over forty years. He also had a butchering business here. Betty married Lee Williams. She runs a Beauty Parlor here. They have one son, and three daughters. The oldest daughter and the son are married. Carrie Parrish, since Sherm's death, has lived in a trailer on Western Avenue. Their former home was built on the site of the Tile Yard.

Mrs. Roy Parrish (Ollie) also lives on Western. Roy is deceased. They had one son, Len, who is in the plumbing business. He married Wilma Webb. They have three sons and one daughter. The daughter and one of the sons are married.

There have been several families named Webb in DeLand. Wilson Webb and his wife, Cecile, came here around 1906 or 07. They had a family of several boys and two girls. The girls were Wilma and Margaret.

The sons were Clarence, Wayne, Rex. Clarence married Martha Marvel. They had two daughters. Clarence is deceased and Martha lives in Clinton. They had a dairy farm in Wisconsin for several years. Doris Ann and Linda were born here. Wayne, who was blinded when in the army, is a very efficient mechanic at DeLand Motors. His wife Ruby, was a daughter of George Crisman. They have four children — Joe of Bement, Cynthia, deceased, Terry, and Debbie at home.

Another Webb family was Ted Webb's family. He was a custodian at the DeLand grade school for many years. Mrs. Webb died before her children were grown. They were Cecil, Truman and Bill Ted who are away from here; Mary Lou Norton and Eloise who first married a man named Mitchell and then a man named Jones. She has four children by Mitchell.

The third Webb family was that of Oliver Webb, father of Clarence (not the Clarence above), Gene and Cloyd. Mrs. Clarence Webb died recently. There was a large family of children. I believe Janel Duncan is the only one living here.

B. W. Swantstrom and his wife, Daisy, have lived here for sometime now, living in the house that Mart Miller built. Mr. Swantstrom and his son, Steve, have a Decoration Service at Monticello. Mrs. Swantstrom teaches at Monticello. She formerly taught at DeLand. One of their sons is a veterinarian.

While Pearle Barnes is not now living here, I am sure she considers DeLand home. She still owns the property of her grandparents and comes back frequently.

There were three Barnes daughters and one son. Eva has been gone for sometime now. Pearle was a teacher and went back to that work after she left the postoffice here. Ruby also taught, and recently has been teaching in the Hammond, Indiana schools. She has several children. Reber, the son, lives in Michigan. Their parents were the J. O. Barnes who lived southwest of DeLand on a farm. When they retired, they lived in the house where her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Frizzell lived. Mr. Frizzell was reared in Ohio. He began when he was fifteen to learn the tanner's trade. He was a Civil War veteran. He was captured and was in Andersonville prison for several months. He came to Charleston, Ill. in 1866 and married Mary L. Frizzell. He later came to DeLand where he farmed.

The Grant family came to DeLand in the 1930's. Mr. Grant is a carpenter. They have several boys — William, Dean, Larry and Jack — and a daughter, Alma Jean. Bill lives in DeLand and Dean between here and Monticello. Jack and Larry live in Monticello. Mrs. Grant was Alma Dye. Dean Grant married Wilma Robinson and they have two children. Bill Grant and his wife, Betty, have three sons.

There are three Manning families - the sons of Chas. Manning who lived southeast of DeLand. They are Paul, Ross and Carl. Paul has one daughter, Mrs. Bill Carr. They have four children. Ross and his wife and two little girls live here in DeLand. Mrs. Manning, JoAnne, is an assistant cashier at the State Bank. Both Ross and Paul are interested in horses and their training. Both help to manage the Horse Show on Homecoming. Carl married an English woman while in England during WWII. They have a large family, some of them grown up and married. As nearly as I can remember, the children are Kathleen, Dick, Mary, Linda, Carla, Jimmy, Randy, Rhonda, Terry, Danny, Bobby, Marty, David and Elizabeth.

The Manning's sister, Annabelle, is the wife of D. O. Fisher. They have three sons — Ronald, Norman and Mark. Ronald lives here, is married and has two children. Mark is just out of school. D. O. is the Fisher who runs the cob business. Warren Fisher, his brother, and wife Fern, are the editors along with the son, Edward, who also works in Clinton. Edward married Shirley Welch and has two children, Allen and Kim. The daughter Charylene married John Taylor. She helps with the newspaper.

Gus Maria married Agnes West and had several children most of whom are gone from DeLand. They include: Hammond, Mary Colvin, and others. After Agnes died, Gus married Mrs. Smith. She has several children. All are grown. One daughter, Mrs. Apperson lives here. Agnes Maria was the daughter of Elmer West and Lona Eubanks. Mr. West and his brother, John, were plasterers and concrete workers here for a long time. John



West was killed in the explosion of dynamite he was carrying in his car when crossing Camp Creek bridge.

The Eubanks family lived here in the early 1900's. Mr. Eubanks ran a livery stable just back of the library. The family moved to Iowa. There were some boys — one named John, and two other girls — Frances and Ada. Frances married a Summers and lives in Monticello. Ada lives in Iowa.

Vestal Gaines and his wife, Anette, have two children, a son, Stephen, and a daughter, Norma. The daughter is married.

Louis Kallembach Sr. ran a blacksmith shop. His first wife was Nanny White. She is Louis Jr.'s mother. He married second, Monselle Hoover. She is the mother of the Vaughn children, Barbara and Robert.

There was a large Cooper family living in DeLand at one time but so far as I know, only Hollie and Jean live here now. Hollie married Cletus Dalton — a carpenter and has three children — Eddie who is married, Freddie and Clay. Jean married Raymond Wykoff and had three sons. She has remarried.

There are two Turpen families — William and Harold. William has four children; William who is married, Charles, Harold and Helen. Harold Turpen has two children — a boy and a girl.

David and Shirley Teets live with her parents — William and Bess Fleming Trigg. The Teets' have two children — Tammy and David.

Ron Hall and his wife Joyee have only lived here for a few years. They have three little boys. They live in the house formerly lived in by Mr. and Mrs. Carrol (Mr. Carrol was the manager of the Farmer's elevator.)

Mrs. Richardson, wife of the late Jim Richardson, still lives in DeLand where they moved when they retired from the farm. Her son, Abner, lives with her. The other children live away from here.



Mrs. Alva Reed

are: Miss Gertie Swisher, Mrs. Ora Holforthy, Mrs. Mary Huisinga, Mrs. Marie Gantz, and Mrs. Alva Reed.

Mrs. Woods children all live elsewhere. Woodrow is at Farmer City.

Mrs. May Rudisill — wife of Lawrence Rudisill, now lives in DeLand. Her daughter Betty who married Kenneth Parrish also lives here and I believe her son lives on the farm.

Mrs. Newton Stotts who used to live north of town, lives in the Vittum house. None of her children live here.

Wilbur Jones, carpenter, lives back of the library. He had three children by his first marriage and three by the second. The three younger children are still at home.



Mr. W.A. Jones

Melvin Vaughn and wife still live here. Their daughter, Beverly who married Roy Dean Carter lives here also. They have two children — both at home.

Burford Hammitt, whose parents farmed north of DeLand lives in the Jim Gessford house. He is unmarried. His mother was an aunt of Winnie Leischner.

Roy Vaughn and his wife Naomi now live

on the hill. She was the former Naomi Butler of Anderson, Ind.

Chas. Norton Jr.'s wife is Ruth Anderson. She is a daughter of Ellsworth Anderson who lived around here for many years. Anderson married Fannie Olivia Hubbell in 1896. Their children were Olive (Peck), Clara (Coay) Thomas, (married Irene Grubaugh), and Ruth.

Nelda Olson, wife of Clark Olson is a resident of DeLand. She was Nelda Lamb of Bement. She came here as an English teacher in the early days of the Township High school and stayed to marry Clark Olson. They had one daughter, Mary, who married Ray Ahlrich, then a teacher in the grade school. They have two children; and live at Monticello where Ray teaches. Ray was a son of Clifford Ahlrich. Clifford's father was John, and his grandfather was also John. The elder John had a number of children — Alec, Lena, Anna, Clarence, Ted, to name a few. Most of them are gone. None live here.

John Olson came to Piatt county from Sweden but soon after moved and purchased "wild" land and made improvements. The house which he built in 1892 still stands south of DeLand. He married Nellie Poulson. Their children were Philip, Alma, Melvin, Anna, (a teacher), Florence, (a teacher), and Clark, (farmer).

There were two Harlow families in DeLand. Robert Harlow and his wife Ella who were the parents of Iva (Mrs. Ben Coffin of Champaign), Opal Penner, Everett, Virgil and Russell. Mrs. Harlow's sister married Bert Harlow. They lived here for a while and had several children. Mrs. Robert Harlow later married John Hayes who had lived here at DeLand. There were Hayes twin girls, by a former marriage — Lula and Lola.

James H. Dresback and his brother Fred, both of Monticello, bought a grocery store here about 1909. It was half of the Vail building which burned in 1914, and Fred then built what is now the Riggs grocery. Jerky, as he was nicknamed, went back to Monticello during the first five years but later came back to DeLand, buying Fred out. He was married to Annabelle Stickel, a descendant of the Piatt for whom the county was named. The Dresback's had four children — Gladys, who married Augustus Gibson of New Jersey and who still lives there (Dr. Gibson is deceased); Robert, who married Margaret Doyle and had one daughter (Robert and Margaret are both deceased); Richard, who was killed in France in the second World War — his wife, Maxine, who ran the store while Dick was in the army, now lives in New York City. She had a lovely voice and has had it trained since she went there; Howard, who married Clarice Cornell, lives in Florida. He was part owner of the Locker Plant when it was new and also the president of the Village Board. Clarice taught here. Annabelle lived here until a few years ago



Mrs. Charles Wood

Mrs. Lettie Woods (Mrs. Charles) still lives here. She is one of six women in DeLand who is over ninety. The others



until she went to New Jersey to make her home. She died there. Fred's wife was Pearl Flannigan, a daughter of Mrs. A. A. Reed.

There were two Bowsher families. The only one left around here is Harriet, wife of Cooper Bowsher who built the building that houses Smith's garage. She has been living recently, following the breaking of a bone, in the Americana Nursing Home in Champaign. Cooper was the son of Hiram Bowsher, a Civil War Veteran who came to Illinois in 1868, bought land in Goose Creek which he farmed until 1874, when he sold it and went into business with H. G. Gantz in the tile factory. He conducted it for three years. For awhile he operated a dairy. He retired in DeLand. Another son was Cecil who for a time was in business with his brother. Hiram's wife was Mary Porter. Besides the two boys there were several girls — Frona (Mrs. Walter Thomas), Mrs. Roy Dewees, Iva (Mrs. Harry Johnston), and Gertha. Cecil married Corda Miller. They had three sons. I believe the Bowshers and Corda are all deceased.

The other Bowsher was Tone Bowsher. His children were Alzina, Jennie, Ruth, Alice, and George. I believe Alzina and Ruth are still living. Alzina married Howard Kahler who once lived here.

Grace Paugh is the only person of that name now living in DeLand. In the early part of this century, her brother, H. T. Paugh owned a livery stable here. His wife was Emma Curran. He had five children — Fred of Bell, Calif., Florence Beamer of Monticello, Harold of Indiana, Willard of Wisconsin, and Helen (Mrs. Burnell Lewis) of Pesotum. His father, Smith Paugh and wife Maria with daughters Alice and Grace and their son, came here in 1907. Fay and wife stayed until after their daughter Margaret was born, then went to Galesburg. Fay later had a son, William. Alice taught school for a couple of years and then married John Wrench of White Heath. Their children are Mildred Gronemeier of Bloomington, Hubert of Normal, John Jr. of Lodge, and Roberta Tate of Gurnee, Ill. Grace was a teacher and the Librarian at Carnegie Library. She is now retired. John Wrench is still living, but all of the others of that generation are deceased.

J. Q. Carter of the lumber yard is deceased as is his wife and son Don. His daughter Elizabeth lives in Europe.

Opal Bickel married Thomas O'Brien, son of Mr. and Mrs. George O'Brien who moved to DeLand from DeWitt county in 1885. The next year, they moved to the Bondurant farm north of DeLand. There were seven children in this family — Harry, Bert, Gladys (Witson), Jesse (of Woodstock), Mary (Hamilton), Tom and Guy. Jesse and Mary are still living. Mary's husband was also a resident of DeLand. The Hamiltons mother and a daughter frequently attend the Homecoming. The George O'Briens lived

on the Bondurant farm for thirty years. During that time he was over-seer of 1100 acres of Bondurant land in Goose Creek township, 1500 acres in Kansas and 2700 acres near Mokenca, Ill. They retired in 1916 to their little farm east of DeLand and lived there until their death.

Samuel Goodman bought the lumber business in DeLand from Charles Dewees in 1896, following a line of work that he had been in before coming here. He married Marguerite Keighin. They had two children, Frank and Mabel. Both children are now retired and Mabel makes her home in Champaign where she went after finishing high school in DeLand. The Goodmans were members of the Methodist church, he being on the official board for several years. Mrs. Goodman was long remembered for her work in the Sunday School where she was superintendent of the primary children for a long time. Mr. Goodman was elected clerk of the first town board when the village was incorporated in 1899. He died while his children were young and Mrs. Goodman reared them by renting rooms to traveling salesmen, and the Chatauqua people who came each summer. When Mabel was out of school she and her mother went to Champaign where Mabel took a business course. Mabel was transferred to other cities at various times until 1955 when Mrs. Goodman passed away at Dayton, Ohio.

A High school teacher who was here for several years and had several winning basketball teams was Raymond Clapper. He was the son of a Methodist preacher who served the church here; Rev. O. L. Clapper (deceased). Mrs. Clapper was Myrtle Smith who now resides at Evenglo Lodge at Pontiac, Ill. They had three other children — Leroy, Maurine and Mervin. Raymond married Gertrude Bickenbach in Illiopolis. They had two children — Judith and Steve. After Raymond's death in 1951, Gertrude taught commercial subjects at Monticello High school. In 1961, she was remarried to Robert Clapper, a cousin of Raymond's. He has three boys. They live at Naperville, Illinois.

Charles and Amelia Zybel Mix came to Monticello in 1862. They had bought land in Goose Creek township but didn't know where it was. They had landed in Quebec from Baden, Germany. At that time August Mix was two years old. He had a younger sister, Lizzie, who was one. After they located their farm, they built their house and other buildings. For awhile they spoke German, but when their children started to school, they had to begin speaking English. August Mix married Louisa Koch in 1890. They had six children — Charles, Willie (died when young), Elmer, Lula, Frances, and Leta. August Mix was killed by a falling tree during a storm. Charles married Elizabeth Boyd and had three children — Robert, Ralph and Helen. Leta married Dr. A.F. Fitz-

Henry and had one son. Elmer and Velda Hunt had 9 children — Dean, Roger, Frances, Florence, Opal, Doris, Carol, Judith and Linda. A yearly occasion in this family was the ice cream supper Elmer held for Elmer's customers on the threshing run that he had. The Elmer Mix's moved from DeLand in 1941. Frances Mix married James Loney. They have two sons. Marlon and Doris Mix White have four children — Marcia, Karen, Lorrie and Michael. Marlon is road commissioner of Goose Creek. The other children of Elmer and Velda are married and have families but do not live here. Linda was killed in an automobile accident and Judith is the Mix daughter who has bravely made a life for herself although she had polio and is paralyzed and must spend much of her life in an iron lung.

Charles Marvel married Edythe Swisher and had children — Walter, Zelda, Alice Lester, Arlene Totten and Martha Webb. Mrs. Marvel was the daughter of Daniel Swisher who married Sarah Ann Wilson and had three children. Miss Gertrude who is now in her nineties and lives on the home place west of DeLand, Edith and Anna. Mr. Swisher came from Pennsylvania to DeLand in 1873. Mrs. Swisher's father, Joseph Wilson, came to Goose Creek Township in 1877, buying land south of the village now occupied by a grandson. He married Lucinda Judy, had five children, three of whom stayed in this township. Those three were: Mrs. Swisher, Mrs. Belle Borton (Lorin's mother) and Jacob who never married. Mrs. Wilson and Jacob in her later years lived in the house now occupied by Zelda Marvel (local librarian).

Mrs. L. L. Rudisill lives just south of the Library. She, her son and his children and her daughter, Betty Parrish, are the only descendants living here of Boman Rudisill and his wife, Lizzie Perkins Rudisill who lived for a long time on the place now occupied by Rex Webb. Mae moved to town after the death of her husband Lawrence and her son farms the farm north of town. Betty and Kenneth Parrish have one son. Kenneth is a custodian at the High School and Betty is a nurse at Kirby Hospital.

There were several Perkins families in this area at the beginning of the century, none today that I know of. The parents lived east of town but moved to DeLand when they retired. They had children — William, (father of Dorothy, Florence, Velma, Violet and Hazel), Mrs. Lou Esary (Sadie), who lived for many years west of the Tribune building, Mrs. Ada Howland, Mrs. Rudisill, and I believe several others.

One of the Ahlrich boys married a Perkins but I do not have the information about that family.

John Ahlrich lived south of town. He had a large family, including John, Alec, Ida, Clarence, and Ted. There were others. Mr. Ahlrich had one of the early automobiles. It was white in color and



every one knew it-but then in those days everyone knew every car!

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wrench are former DeLand and Piatt county teachers. They stayed here after Frank retired from teaching and finished his work as county Superintendent.

Naomi Wisegarver, wife of Carter, is the only Wisegarver left in Goose Creek township. Carter was the son of Smith Wisegarver and a grandson of George Wisegarver. Wisegarver came to Nixon township in DeWitt county about 1853. While he lived in DeWitt county (practically on the line between it and Piatt county) he had land in Goose Creek township and his church and school affiliations were at DeLand. He had sons Wayne, Carter, George and Stanley and daughters Pauline and Cleo. Only Stanley and Cleo are now living. Wayne married Kitty Turley. They had four daughters. Carter and Naomi (Bailey) had three sons — Gene and Robert and Edwin, and two daughters — Virginia and Mary Ellen. Robert and Alta Mae Rex had sons Roger and Wayne, and a daughter Sheila.

Mrs. Belle Timmons, wife of Gurney Timmons, formerly of Lodge still lives in DeLand. Mr. Timmons was the father of Ray Timmons who married Mary Trenchard. Ray and Mary's son George farms east of DeLand. Mrs. Belle Timmons had three children by her first husband, Walter Dillavou, who formerly lived at DeLand. They are a son, Carlyle and two daughters, Nola who married Adolph Headley and Julia Pearl who married Lyle Meyers. The Meyers live in Colorado.

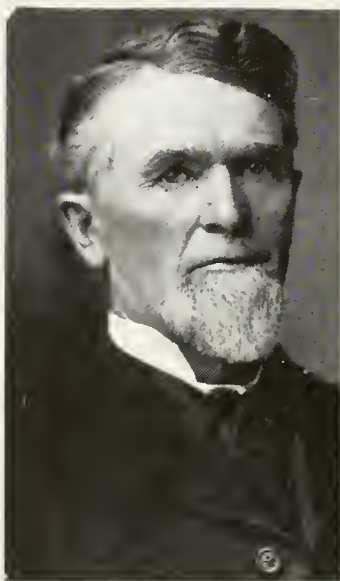
Lynn Shull and his wife who is employed at the lumber yard live on Western Ave. His mother who married Clyde Parrish lives on East 3rd. Also on Western Ave. are Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Edwards, retired elevator manager. Next door to the Edwards are the Mendenhall family. Mrs. Mendenhall is the former Shirley Lane, daughter of the George Lane's who was reared in this community. On Illinois Ave. is the George Kuder family. Mr. Kuder is a carpenter. Mr. and Mrs. Webster Plympton live on Western, also. Lloyd Crichton is the new manager at the elevator. He has several children. Grace Maden who was a Hoover and a sister of Monselle Kallembach lives on the hill. Her husband, Jim Maden (deceased) was reared in DeLand. She has several married children. Also living on the hill is Mr. and Mrs. Beecher Pittman. Mrs. Pittman is a beauty operator. Earl Taylor and his brother Gerald both live in DeLand. Earl has a large family of boys and girls. Jerry married Janice Weddle. They also have several children.

The Charles Thompson's on East Third have a number of grown children away from here who visit their parents and call them frequently. The Thompson's are among the citizens over 80.

There are several of long residents in the country. Lonnie Smith who married

Imogene Martin. Their children are all grown. Don Marlott who lives next door to the old High School and has two little girls. The Hogans north of town. Mr. and Mrs. Halsey Thompson north of town. Two Conatsers families — John and his son Martin, Glen Smith and wife Grace with three boys. The Anthony Roy's and Herschel Murphy's also are long residents.

Up on the Hill — the Jeffery's and just south of Hermann Meyers — teacher Lawrence Gregory, his wife Dorothy and four young ones live. I could go on and on for there are many new people in the village and in the rural areas. I have no information regarding them except their names in the telephone directory. But my space for this is filled. I am sure this will give the readers an idea of who lives in Goose Creek township and DeLand on this, its 100th birthday.



J. N. Rodman

Julious N. Rodman was one of DeLand's VIP's. He was reared in McLean county, coming to Goose Creek township in 1879. The family home was 1½ miles east of DeLand. He later lived in DeLand. In 1902 he was elected to the State Legislature. He married Clara Colvin. After her death, a nephew's wife, Lorena Rodman, kept house for him. She had four children who grew up here. In later years they lived at LaPorte, Indiana on a farm he owned there. As a boy, he met Abraham Lincoln.

Scammon Rodman, brother of J. N. also lived here. Scammon Rodman was a civil war veteran. He married Emily Fleming and had a number of children, including Mabel Rodman Fuller, who was the first Librarian here. He built the first grain elevator in DeLand. The firm name was Moody and Rodman.

There were two Conner families. One was the family of John Connor who ran the grocery that burned in 1914. His children were: Pearl, who married Fred Parrish

(both now deceased); Myrta, who is a retired teacher living at Forsythe; Etta (deceased); Emmett and Voris.

John Conner's brother also lived here for sometime. He had a large family of children including: Charles, Gertrude, Vivian, Elva, Gladys, Floyd, Jual, Nadine, Robert, and Gene. Charles was the rural mail carrier here for a long time. Later he was transferred to Hammond. Today he is retired and lives at Cerro Gordo. He married Florence Hassinger and has one son, Wendell. After Florence's death he remarried. Gertrude married Wayne Churchill. They had three daughters — Lucretia, Virginia and Jean. Lucretia and Virginia both served in the army in W. W. II. Vivian married Virgil Carrier of DeLand (both deceased) and Floyd married Alice Churchill of DeLand (both deceased). The others married people away from here. Gertrude was the telephone operator here for a long time. Both Conner families moved away from here in the early twenties.

Florence Conner's father, Sam Hassinger and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hassinger were early residents of DeLand. Sam and Emma Hassinger had two other children — Frank and Frona. Frank married Wave Kesler. They had three children. Frank was fatally injured in an accident on the interurban when working for the ITS. Wave's sister, Lola, married Seymour Cathcart. They also had three children. Frona Hassinger married Harve Caylor. They had several children. They moved to Decatur where Frona died recently. Harve is also gone.

The Long family came in the nineteen teens. There were four children. Cecile was a school teacher. She married Fred Dial. They live on a farm near Macon. The others were Paul, Ina and Vera. Vera died during the flu epidemic in 1918 and 1919.

Frona, who married Harve Caylor, has died recently.

Frank Hassinger married Wave Kesler. They had three children — Darrell, Vivian and Fern. Wave's sister Lola Kesler, married Seymour Cathcart, who had a beautiful tenor voice. They also had three children — Phyllis, Marjorie and Robert.

The Cathcarts were a pioneer family. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cathcart had a number of children, including Leon. Seymour, Irl, Lyle and William. Irl married Bess Mansfield and remained in DeLand. They had two daughters — Elizabeth and Carol. The older Cathcarts are all deceased as is Carol.

The Swartz family have been long residents of this community. Mac Swartz married Gertrude Reed. They farmed southwest of DeLand for many years. Their daughter Bernice Crawley lives in Florida Lyle lives in Farmer City and Lorin, who was killed in an auto accident several years ago farmed the Swartz farm. His son Jack now farms it. His and Era (Wilson's) other children were Beverly



(deceased)., Patsy Clifton, Max and Jill. Era lives in DeLand.

The Fishers, who print the Tribune, are Warren and his wife Fern, their son Edward (wife Shirley), and Charylene and husband John Taylor. Edward Fishers have two children.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Vaughn are also lifetime residents. Mrs. Vaughn was Naomi Butler of Anderson, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Liestman were pioneers of this community. Mr. Liestman was a photographer and had a shop here for a long time. Their children were Grace Fennerty, now of Florida, Lula Doss (deceased), William (deceased), Cicel and Harold both of whom live in Michigan.

Louis Kallembach, Jr. who is part owner of the DeLand Locker plant, and his wife, Frances, have three children of school age. They lost a son recently. Louis is the chairman of the Centennial Board. His hobby is painting. Mrs. Kallembach is a teacher in this school district.

## EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE

Two events of importance so far in 1973. The garage on the hill known as Joe's Service and Garage burned to the ground early in January. The fire was discovered by a member of Joe's family in a nearby house when he heard a noise at the garage. Looking out, he saw flames coming from the garage and by the time the alarm was given and help arrived, there could be nothing done to save the building. They concentrated their efforts on saving nearby buildings. A small building once used as a restaurant but now used for storage was also destroyed.

The second event was the arrival of a 100 car train which was loaded with corn from the elevator. When it pulled out, it had 350,000 bushels of corn bound for Louisiana where it will be transferred to ships for export. There have been two more such trains in January and February. And a fourth is scheduled to arrive the middle of March. By that time, the elevator will have shipped approximately 1,400,000 bushels of corn from this area. Needless to say, the railroad area was a mighty busy place on those days. It took a number of workers and they had sightseers who were interested. There are three pictures in this book that show the loading and the train.



100 car train that has been taking corn out of DeLand for export.

Someone asked recently where we got the saying "DeLand, Biggest Little Town on Earth." When the town had the Booster Club about 1916, someone suggested that it should have a slogan. It is believed that George Trigg came up with this slogan. For a long time, he used it in his furniture store advertisements which appeared every week in the Tribune. There were also envelopes printed for some of the firms that had the slogan printed across the back.

## 1873-DeLand Centennial Celebration-1973

DeLand was surveyed on the 23rd and 25th days of April in 1873 and the 20th and 21st days of May, 1873.

In 1973, one hundred years later, DeLand will celebrate its 100th birthday. The KICKOFF for the celebration will take place on May 20th which is on a Sunday. On that afternoon, there will be a Band Concert and refreshments of ice cream and cake. There may be other numbers on the program. The picture collection which has been compiled over a number of years will be on display at the Library. This collection of over three hundred pictures will give the newcomers an idea of what DeLand was like before all the big fires. And they will furnish homecoming folks with plenty of nostalgia. The collection was made by Grace Paugh when she was Librarian, is to belong to the community and cared for by the Library. And if you graduated from Goose Creek Township High School, you will be able to view your smiling face as it was then. When the

grade school was moved to the township building, all the pictures in the lower hall were taken down for re-decorating and not replaced. The Library Board rescued them so they would not be lost and gave them room.

This book will also be distributed on that day.

The Homecoming Board-DeLand Entertainments, Inc. is in charge of the celebration. Added to it for this year are representatives of various organizations. There has already been several meetings. Everyone is enthusiastic and is busily at work.

The Board this year is made up of Chairman, Louis Kallembach, Jr.; Vice-chairman, Edward Fisher; Treasurer, Edwin Reed; Secretary, George Edwards; and members, Lloyd Crichton, Wilbur Trimble, Ron Hall, D. O. Fisher, Ron Fisher, Roy Mullvain and Kenneth Parrish.

The following people are chairmen of the various committees: Centennial Book, Grace Paugh; Advertising, D. O. Fisher; Beards and Town Cop, Bill Carr; Parade, Edwin Reed and George Loney; Tickets, Cecil Clemons; Publicity, Richard Loney; Concessions and flea market, Ron Hall; Entertainment, Jack Swartz; Horse Show, Ross Manning; Antiques, Senior Woman's Club; Pageant, Grace Mullvain; Souvenirs, Evening Woman's Club; Children's games, Wendell Clifton.

Various Centennial Events are expected to occur during the summer but are not planned as yet. On the last two Sundays in August (Aug. 19th and 26th), members of the Senior Woman's Club will have Open House in ten different homes where there are a number of antiques. They will be open from 2 to 5 p.m. The Homes are those of Warren Fisher, Loren Borton, Karl Borton, George Timmons, Lindell Huisinga, Wendell Trenchard, William Gantz, B. W. Swanstrom, Bradford Knisely, and Louis Kallembach Jr.

The final events will take place on August 31st, September 1st (the regular Homecoming Day) and possible there will be some celebration on Sunday. We know of one class who plans a reunion. Children's games are planned for after school on Friday Evening. An evening program will include several events — the beard judging, an old time style show, a square dance, etc. The parade will start at 10 o'clock Saturday morning. It is hoped that there will be enough entries to make it a two hour parade. The Horse show and some entertainment in the park will be Saturday afternoon. The Pageant will be Saturday night followed by a Teen-age dance. Late in 1972, the Board sponsored a "Centennial Emblem" contest which was won by Mark Fisher, son of D. O. Fisher. It will be used on souvenirs and in other ways.

There have been some Centennial Rules passed that we suggest you read if you are







Homecoming board — 1973.



1973 Homecoming Board and Committees

a DeLand Citizen and ponder a bit. Otherwise you might find yourself in a dire predicament. The rules apply to everyone over 18 years of age who has a DeLand address, phone number or who lives in the DeLand fire district or operates a business in DeLand.

Starting May 20th, and each weekend until August 18th, the ladies must wear a long dress covering her ankles and a Centennial Belle Button which can be purchased at the Centennial Store. If the lady finds it inconvenient to dress thus, she can avoid arrest by purchasing a "High Hemline" button. From August 18th on, and continuing through September 1st (yes, even to Church and the grocery store or wherever she goes outside her home) she must wear her long dress and her Centennial button or risk being hauled off to jail.

Starting May 20th, the men must wear a Centennial String tie, a Brother of the Brush button and must have started a beard or Mustache or have bought a shaving permit. Beware, fellows! The cop will get you if you don't watch out! The worst about being thrown into jail is, you can't bail yourself out, nor will your relatives be able to help you! So if you plan to break the law, be sure you have plenty of good friends around.

There are plans to have a clean up in the spring. Remember the enthusiasm we use to have at that time? A few people have already started to follow the old slogan "Clean up! Paint up!" The Library Board has already re-decorated the Library and you will find it a lovely place — just as attractive as you remembered it from when you went there on Wednesday nights to meet friends and study.

Everyone is looking forward to having some three months of fun this summer. Come! Join us!

#### IT HAPPENED IN DELAND

The following article appeared in the DeLand Tribune in November of 1954. It was written by Grace Mullvain who was then fairly new to our community.

"Today, the DeLand Tribune arrived. Since our men folks were away, I sat down like many others and read it from front to back. When I had finished I sat for a moment thinking what a busy community our DeLand really is, and how many things we have to offer our home folks.

Perhaps the paper contained more news, maybe more editorials than usual.

Papers, I'm sure, like everything else, have better weeks than others. I suppose the news, where we have been, and who went, is read first by many, but just take stock for an instant of what takes place in our little town in one week.

Our women's clubs looking for clean comic books for our boys and girls, and studying the Health problems of our community and working with the Legion and Auxiliary in sending Christmas boxes to our boys overseas. Grace Paugh working hard cleaning shelves free of books, so that little girls, big girls, and boys could visit a doll collection and admire the beautiful little ladies, each representing a character of real life or story book fame.

Clyde Foster with his sports notes. I read them even though I'm not an ardent fan. Mr. Heberer with his "For what its worth." I know some men are really enjoying it, some, I'm sure have told him. Mrs. Laugher, the new Home Ec. Teacher and her adult education classes just ready to start.

Churches, yes, many for a small community, all busy having suppers, dinners, bake sales, Christian Youth Hour, Methodist Youth Fellowship, choir practice, regular worship services, busy ministers trying to make it a happy Christian community.

School-grade, junior and senior high with regular classes along with the plays, the bands, the ball games. Last week, Pat Goodman entered an editorial on "What is the Price of Liberty?" She says, "we can never fully repay the Great Builders of our Nation. A Junior High school, I believe, made me think how we must continually work to build better communities, wonder if we are doing our part as adults, as parents. Read it. It's a prize winner!

All these things along with the showers, the marriages and the deaths are a part of our small town paper. In a small community, "everyone shares our joys, everyone shares our woes, makes one really aware at the eve of the Thanksgiving season, how much we have to be thankful for. May we all remember to be grateful for our blessings in 1954."

And that, friends is a small town! I am reminded of a verse in the front of a book that use to be in the Library.

"Though people in the city are inclined to run it down  
Life is not monotonous in a little town.  
You may not see so much, my dears,  
But whee! the things one hears!"

Life may sometimes be monotonous in the "Biggest Little Town on Earth", but we have much to be thankful for on this Centennial birthday, and much to be proud of.

Grace



Community picnic scene about 1917.



Community picnic scene about 1917



Community picnic scene about 1917



Homecoming scene — 1957













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